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Blair tries to defuse jobs row at summit

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

THE Prime Minister intervened to act as a peace broker in the jobs dispute between France and Germany last night as the issue threatened to disrupt the Amsterdam summit on the future of Europe.

As EU finance ministers met to draw up a new jobs package, Tony Blair went straight into talks with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister who is the summit host, and Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist French Prime Minister.

He made plain that he backed Germany's demand that the so-called stability pact imposing strict rules on countries that join a single currency should remain untouched. But he also supported demands by the French for fresh recognition that job creation should be at the top of the EU's agenda.

As a result, a new agreement underlining the importance of European governments co-ordinating their efforts to create employment may be appended to the stability pact.

British officials said that it would be based on proposals put forward by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, last week. But Mr Blair's aides said that he would balk at more traditional Socialist French proposals for spending substantial sums of money to create jobs.

Until now, Britain has stayed on the sidelines of the row, since it has left its options open on a single currency.

British officials said that Mr Blair was hoping to play the role of intermediary, particularly as he was opposed to moves to weaken the Maastricht convergence criteria for the single currency - which would be damaging whether Britain was in it or not.

The threat of the summit being overshadowed by the row grew when a meeting between M Jospin and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, broke up without agreement last Friday. M Jospin was demanding ambitious pan-European projects to create jobs, while Herr Kohl insisted that there could be no more money.

And there were strong indications that the finance ministers would not be able to reach full agreement on the package last night and would therefore have to reconvene today.

Some ministers believe that French concerns about unemployment could backfire if they led to a weaker single currency.

They fear that could mean interest rates being raised to boost the credibility of the euro - and

perhaps increase unemployment.

The atmosphere of crisis over jobs was heightened by big street demonstrations in Amsterdam at the weekend when young people from all over the Continent converged to protest about European leaders' failure to tackle the problem of 18 million unemployed.

The debate is certain to spill over into the opening session of the summit today.

The wording of the "employment chapter" in the treaty due to be finalised tomorrow night will also be subjected to fierce debate, although the threat of delay to Herr Kohl's dreams of monetary union may, in the end break the deadlock.

Today, in a symbolic gesture to demonstrate that the project remains on track, the leaders will be shown the coins that will start circulating in Europe after the euro is launched.

The 15 leaders will also begin the task of producing an updated Maastricht treaty for enlarging the EU in the next decade. Its main features will include the creation of a frontier-free security zone for all countries except Britain and Ireland, whose island status will be formally recognised - although Downing Street claims that the treaty wording remains too unspecific for its liking.

The new treaty will also aim to streamline the decision-making machinery to smooth the way to a Europe of 25 members.

Britain will formally end its opt out from the social chapter but has asked for a two-year delay before the legislation comes into effect. Mr Blair will also oppose moves by France and Germany for Europe to be given its own defence identity.

Amsterdam summit, page 11



Jospin: demanding action to cut unemployment

Tax windfall to Prince's Trust will help 25,000 young jobless

By Andrew Pierce and David Charter

THE Prince of Wales is poised to secure millions of pounds from the Government's proposed windfall tax to fund a scheme providing work for 25,000 unemployed young people.

But last night, as the Prince outlined his vision of a "contributing" monarchy for the 21st century, he faced a barrage of criticism from teachers who attacked his call for a return to more traditional teaching methods.

The proposed deal with the Prince's Trust will underline the

importance of the new partnership forged by Prince Charles and Tony Blair's Government. The Prince said that with the Trust firmly established, he hoped that when he became King, Prince William would take on the Prince's Trust.

"I think the great thing is that there is something for him to look at," the Prince told Sir David Frost in a BBC programme on the 21st anniversary of the Prince's Trust, the charity the Prince founded to provide training and business opportunities for young people.

Officials from the trust have submitted a dossier to the Department of Employment on their

proposals to provide 25,000 work and training placements for people aged between 18 and 25. It is the kind of initiative that echoes plans by the Government to provide training, education and work for the long term unemployed.

The consensus in ideas between the Prince and New Labour was shown again last night when he gave his backing to more formal teaching methods and highlighted some of the failings of the educational system. His intervention in the educational standards debate

Continued on page 2, col 4

Prince and the Premier, page 6

Grand Prix halted after crash

THE Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal was halted on the 56th lap last night when Olivier Panis broke his leg after crashing into a safety barrier. The race organisers feared that debris from the crash was damaging the tyres of other cars.

Michael Schumacher of Ferrari was declared the winner. He said: "I am very glad to pick up 10 points but I'm sorry it was in such circumstances."

The championship favourite and local hero Jacques Villeneuve had crashed out of the race on the second lap.

Race report, page 25

German spies shot at Tower

Details of the only executions at the Tower of London this century have come to light after nearly 80 years. Eleven people were taken there to be shot at dawn as German spies during the First World War, and a twelfth suffered the same fate during the Second World War. Some of the documents relating to their trials have been lost and other files held by the intelligence services remain classified. Page 7

Big gains likely in Norwich Union

Many Norwich Union customers will make big gains when the insurer joins the Stock Exchange this morning. The sale price for extra shares was fixed at 290p yesterday, against 265p paid by members on top of their free allocation. City funds are expected to drive the price up to more than 340p. Page 48

The Times e-mail

Letters for publication in *The Times* may now be sent by e-mail as well as by post or fax. The address is: letters@the-times.co.uk

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Naomi Campbell treated in pills scare

By Dominic Kennedy

THE model Naomi Campbell was taken into intensive care in a Canary Islands hospital yesterday after taking what medical staff described as an overdose of sedatives.

Miss Campbell, who was staying on Grand Canary with her flamenco dancer boyfriend Joaquin Cortes, was treated in her hotel room before being taken to hospital at 4am. Her condition stabilised and she was expected to leave hospital soon.

As the Spanish media reported that Miss Campbell had had taken an overdose of barbiturates after a "furious row" with Señor Cortes, her London lawyer issued an official denial and insisted that she had suffered an allergic reaction to antibiotics.

Jonathan Goldstein said: "Ms Campbell is perfectly well and fully recovered and will be leaving hospital later today. She wishes to make it clear that there is absolutely no foundation whatsoever to the story that she had taken an overdose."

Miss Campbell, 27, had been on the Canary Islands with Señor Cortes since last week, and they were staying in separate rooms at the five-star Santa Catalina hotel.

A Spanish magazine last week published photographs of Señor Cortes walking on a beach with another woman. The same magazine reported that Ms Campbell was upset by the pictures.

A hospital spokesman declined to comment when asked if Miss Campbell had tried to commit suicide. The hospital issued a statement saying: "Naomi Campbell is in a stable clinical condition, allowing her to be discharged in the next few hours."

Gruelling schedule, page 3



Naomi Campbell: taken into intensive care after 4am alert at Grand Canary hotel

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Clarke refuses to serve under his rivals

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE ruled out serving in the Shadow Cabinet yesterday if he lost the Tory leadership contest to either William Hague or John Redwood.

The former Chancellor said: "John is a hardline Eurosceptic. William has spent the last few days making himself harder-line Eurosceptic and they're not going to get many pro-Europeans into the Cabinet if that becomes the key element of their appeal."

Michael Heseltine said that he was returning to the backbenches whoever won the leadership, and

gave warning that the party could collapse unless Mr Clarke became leader. It could retreat into "some small corner" in its policies on Europe under Mr Hague and Mr Redwood.

Mr Clarke's supporters said if Mr Hague won, there would be another leadership contest before the next general election.

Friends of Baroness Thatcher said that her preferred choice was a contest between Michael Portillo and Chris Patten, which was one reason she had decided against endorsing anyone. Neither man is expected to attempt a rapid return to the Commons.

Mr Heseltine, speaking on

BBC's *On the Record*, said: "Unless the Conservative Party survives as a broad church, it doesn't survive. There is no way in which we will win a general election unless we remember that we have always done that, appealing to a wide constituency across the whole UK."

Mr Clarke said his rivals were running "terribly divisive" campaigns by concentrating on the issue of the single European currency. Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, he said that the "boring old script" about the precise theological position on the single currency was the one that had destroyed John Major's government.

One MP in the Clarke campaign

said: "Ken could not go on television and radio to defend his position of outright opposition to the single currency which he patently disagrees with. He will not be able to serve under William or John."

The brooding presence of such a formidable Conservative on the Tory backbenches would create huge problems in running the party for Mr Major's successor.

and leading businessmen. But there was a setback for Mr Clarke last night when *Canal* Secretary, the former Education Secretary, denied reports she had already decided to back him. "I have not made my mind up," she said.

Despite the outburst from Mr Clarke both Mr Hague and Mr Redwood were unrepentant over Europe. Mr Hague, who secured the support yesterday of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and of Sir Tim Bell the Thatcherite advertising guru, stepped up his appeal to Eurosceptics. He warned that a future Tory government might have to relieve powers given away to the European

Union by Tony Blair at this week's Amsterdam summit.

Mr Redwood accused Mr Hague of changing his position on the single currency "day by day". The Tory party had to say "no" to the Amsterdam treaty saying the Labour government was "giving our country away".

With relations between the three camps deteriorating on the eve of the second ballot, Alan Clark, the Thatcherite former minister who has returned to the Commons, said that the bitter conduct of the contest was damaging the party.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Letters, page 21

Citizens to decide on future of charter

Five thousand people drawn from a social and geographic cross-section will provide a pool for focus groups to discuss ideas to inject new energy to the Citizens' Charter programme. David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said last night: "Just as the BBC has its listeners' panel, I want a panel of citizens."

Forces bias under attack

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is to issue a mission statement for the Armed Forces this week which will outlaw racism, sexism and bullying. The statement aims to lay down "basic sets of objectives". It will cover the roles already taken by the Forces and underline the responsibilities the military has as part of the community.

Trains halted

A ban on overtime and rest-day working by the train drivers' union Aslef is expected to cancel 334 of today's Connex South Central trains — one in five — in a dispute over the restructuring of hours and working practices. Services into Victoria and London Bridge will be affected.

Kidnap alert

Parents in Hartlepool were told to keep a close watch on their children after a boy aged 11 said he had been abducted by a woman to abduct his 18-month-old brother from their front garden. The boy said he threw mud in the face of the woman, described as of Asian appearance.

Back on track

Freight services through the Channel Tunnel resumed yesterday, almost seven months after the fire which led to suspension of the controversial lattice-sided trains. The first left Folkestone carrying 23 lorries. The service will increase to eight an hour in either direction at peak times.

Treasure hunt

Divers are about to begin a salvage operation on a wreck thought to be the richest in British waters. Experts believe that the *Hanover*, which sank off Cornwall in 1763, contains gold bullion worth more than £50 million. The salvage team hopes to have the right weather conditions within two weeks.

Thatcher tribute to courage of Falklands force

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS THATCHER gave an emotional address on the fifteenth anniversary of the end of the Falklands War yesterday, recalling the day when she was told that Argentine soldiers were flying white flags over Port Stanley.

Speaking to thousands of Falklands veterans and their families at a ceremony in Gosport, Hampshire, Lady Thatcher paid tribute to the courage of those who took part in the conflict in the South Atlantic.

Lady Thatcher was the special guest at a reunion organised by the newly-formed South Atlantic Medals Association. On Saturday there was an open-air concert for more than 2,000 Falklands veterans. Lady Thatcher told them: "I was at the Trooping the Colour for Her Majesty's birthday yesterday watching the Scots Guards parading. It was a very different Trooping the Colour 15 years ago. On that same Saturday 15 years ago the Scots Guards were involved in what was to be a final battle most fiercely fought: the battle for Tumble-

down Hill. The battle raged until the following Monday." She said she spoke to Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the overall commander of the Royal Navy task force, to ask if there was any news but there was none. "Then at 9.30 in the evening some wonderful news came through. The Argentinians were withdrawing and white flags were flying over Port Stanley."

Dictators, she said, could not be defeated by ideals, diplomatic exchanges and United Nations' resolutions alone, but by strong defences that were ready for the unexpected, and by courageous soldiers, sailors and airmen who were supported by their families.

Earlier, Lady Thatcher attended a service at Falklands Gardens in Gosport, where she unveiled a plaque in tribute to the 255 servicemen who died and the hundreds who were injured in the campaign. As the service ended, a Sea Harrier flew low over Portsmouth Harbour and hovered off the gardens, dipping its nose in salute.



Baroness Thatcher pausing for reflection during the commemoration ceremony at the Falkland Gardens in Gosport, Hampshire, yesterday

Jobs for young

Continued from page 1
provoked protests from teachers' unions. They launched a personal attack on the Prince who had called for a return to "timeless approaches" in the classroom.

The Prince told Sir David that the "fashionable approach" adopted by teachers in the last 30 or 40 years meant his Prince's Trust had to pick up the pieces of a "somewhat failed system". Educators should look to the Far East, where teachers have not abandoned traditional methods such as whole class teaching, he said.

The Prince's views were dismissed as "negative, bias, prejudice and ignorant" by Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the National Union of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. Mr de Gruchy said the Prince should look to his failures in his own married life before lambasting the teaching profession. "We know we have got some weak spots, and for understandable reasons, most of them stemming from social breakdown, for which he has given a very bad role model from his own broken family."

Mr de Gruchy added: "When it comes to doing his job, which is surely to give the nation a strong moral lead, he has obviously not been good at his own job." He said the Prince's comments were bad

for morale at a time when a survey, to be published next month, will show that 33 per cent of primary teachers and 40 per cent in secondary schools are disenchanted and want to quit teaching.

But the Prince won support from Stephen Byers, the minister responsible for school standards. "I think he [the Prince] is right to send these warnings."

The Prince has spoken out about poor classroom standards before, using a Shakespeare Birthday Lecture in 1991 to call for better teaching of literacy and greater investment in schools. In January he praised the idea of homework clubs, which were pioneered by his Trust, the day after Tony Blair floated the same idea as Labour policy.

His Trust will make an application for financial assistance to fund a scheme to find work for 25,000 young people. Ministers, who are impressed by the work of the charity, will recommend approval of a scheme that could require £25 million over three years.

The Government's own proposed "new deal" which will offer work, education, or training to 250,000 unemployed people bears similarities to the pioneering work done by the Prince with the jobless since 1990.

Prince and Premier, page 6

Prescott ready to let private sector control the Tube

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT has demanded an urgent report on how to give the private sector control of London Underground, despite Labour's pre-election campaign against Tory privatisation of the Tube.

The Deputy Prime Minister is calling for draft proposals for a partial sale to be accelerated so that ministers can set out a range of options to take the Underground out of state control. A leaked letter from Mr Prescott underlines the Government's willingness to allow private companies to take majority control of a business estimated to be worth up to £13 billion.

Although the revelation does not directly contradict Labour's manifesto commitment to "exploring a public-private partnership", Mr Prescott's reference to giving private business "a majority shareholding" marks the first public admission that the private sector could be given overall control.

The leak of the letter is of particular embarrassment to Mr Prescott, who left it in a studio after being interviewed

about London Underground for tonight's *Panorama* programme. He accused the BBC of stealing the letter and attached documents, but senior Labour figures admitted he left them behind last Friday.

Labour ran a strong pre-election campaign opposing Tory plans to privatise the Tube network. Andrew Smith, then Shadow Transport Secretary, said that the privatisation was "a desperate move by a Government bankrupt of ideas". Labour insists that Mr Prescott's plans fall well short of Conservative proposals to sell the entire Underground, and say that ministers will remain publicly accountable for it.

Mr Prescott will appoint external financial advisers within a month to consider in detail a number of options either for a joint venture or for extended leasing to the private sector. Joint venture plans are unlikely to begin until 2000.

The BBC denied stealing the document, and said it had been returned to the Department of Transport.

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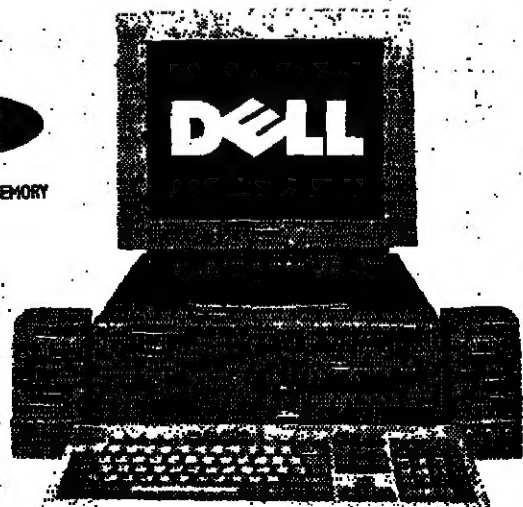
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Gruelling schedule exacts a high price



The model with her former fiancé, Adam Clayton, and her mother, Valerie, who has also appeared on the catwalk

How Naomi keeps in the public eye

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

AFTER 11 years on the international catwalks, Naomi Campbell had until yesterday appeared to be one of the world's most resilient models.

But as her fame and gruelling schedule continue to grow, so too does her reputation for temperamental behaviour. Stories are rife of her tendency to "lose it" if things do not go according to plan. At London Fashion Week in February, a frantic security guard could be seen scanning the press queue, desperately seeking Ms Campbell's hairdresser, lest her absence cause a catastrophe.

At the Philip Treacy show she turned the wrong way only to find herself trapped when the floor of the stage was lowered away. Despite her years on the catwalk, this appeared to throw her completely — she threw up her hands, rolled her eyes and

pushed her way backstage through security guards.

The next night she went for a quiet dinner, but was taken ill complaining of severe stomach cramps. She was released from hospital after 16 hours and series of tests. Miranda Denoff, her agent, said: "Naomi is really tired after a heavy week of shows."

Commercially, her star remains high. She appears in the lucrative summer campaign for Ralph Lauren, is on the cover of this month's British *Elle*, and, at 26, retains her glowing skin and svelte figure.

Yet she appears to be continually in the wars, attracting nearly as much adverse publicity as good. In March, she was sacked as figurehead of the animal charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals after she wore fur in the Fendi show. She later said

she had become disenchanted when a protester threw a dead raccoon on to the plate of Anna Wintour, the American *Vogue* editor.

Even the catwalk photographers do not appear to be on Ms Campbell's side. During one show last year, French photographers yelled "Idiot!" as she walked down the runway towards them. Such incidents only add to the stress.

Ms Campbell is not immune to these knocks. In April, she spoke out about what she described as the narrow mindedness of the industry towards black models, citing her own relegation from the cover to the inside page of an issue of *American Vogue* as an example.

Throughout these disappointments and triumphs, she has turned to a somewhat eclectic list of men. To the

outsider, there appears to be no obvious common thread linking her various boyfriends — except that they are all high profile and the relationships are conducted in the full glare of publicity.

She had a close friendship with the boxer Mike Tyson, followed by a four-year relationship with Robert de Niro, and she was once engaged to U2's Adam Clayton. Her current boyfriend is Joaquin Cortes, a flamenco dancer with his own heavy schedule of performances, and scarcely the type to play the supporting role.

She is close to her mother, Valerie Campbell, but has never known her father. Revealingly, she recently said, "I always think if kids have a defect in life, such as one of their parents missing, they are always more independent."



With the flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortes, who is the latest in an eclectic line of high-profile boyfriends

Saudi judges put pressure on nurse's brother

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

JUDGES at the trial of two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia have given the victim's brother a week to prove he has the right to insist on the death penalty.

Lawyers for Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Perry said yesterday that Frank Gilford must be a beneficiary of his sister's will for him to have any say in the sentencing if they are found guilty of murdering Yvonne Gilford, who was stabbed, beaten and suffocated.

The judges adjourned the case until Monday next week to give Mr Gilford's lawyers time to collect proof from Australia that he is named in Yvonne Gilford's will.

Salah Hejailan, one of the nurses' lawyers, said last week in a statement that set the scene for yesterday's challenge that if Mr Gilford was not named "he has no right under Islamic law to demand before the court the imposition of the death penalty".

The judges' decision to demand proof of Mr Gilford's standing was viewed as further evidence that the Saudi authorities are doing their utmost to avoid the possibility of the two nurses facing the death penalty. The case resumed after a three-week adjournment declared by the judges to give Mr Gilford time to consider "financial compensation", or blood money, instead of the death penalty if a guilty verdict were passed.

Mr Gilford, 59, a parcel courier from South Australia, has refused to yield to clemency appeals. The mother of the dead nurse and Mr Gilford, Muriel, 84, who suf-

fers from Alzheimer's disease, is unaware of developments and cannot have a say.

Saudi officials made it clear at the weekend that the death penalty was extremely unlikely. It would be considered only if the judges found "incontrovertible evidence of premeditated murder". A statement by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London seemed to prepare the ground for a lesser sentence, saying that if the court decided the murder resulted from an argument that "got out of hand", the death penalty would not be imposed.

No evidence against Miss McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, or Ms Perry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, has been heard. Their lawyers insist the prosecution's case relies on alleged confessions they made to police. The women claimed those were made under duress and threats of sexual abuse.



Gilford must be named in his sister's will

Givenchy to head Christie's in France

By JOHN SHAW

THE new president of Christie's France is to be Hubert de Givenchy, as the battle for international dominance between Christie's and Sotheby's shifts to a new sphere.

M de Givenchy, 70, the couturier famous for his elegant, understated style, takes over on October 1, three months before the country opens up to the international auctioneers on January 1. Although he retired from the fashion world in 1995, he retains a global network of friends and former clients who will consult him when thinking of selling at auction. His appointment could be an inspired move by Christie's in its continuing struggle with Sotheby's.

M de Givenchy sold his own collection of Louis XIV and Louis XVI furniture and furnishings through Christie's in Monte Carlo in 1993, setting a world record for a furniture sale. The firm has been in France since 1968. It has built up a network of about half a dozen offices, but the lucrative Paris market has been closed to foreign auction firms, and sales have been held twice a year in Monte Carlo.

All this changes next year and he will oversee the transition. Presentation has become increasingly important in this business, and it is not hard to imagine M de Givenchy's design and decorative skills being utilised in the marketing of the big art collections.

He takes over from Nicholas Worms, a financial expert, who will retain a seat on the firm's supervisory committee. Mr Worms has also been re-elected to the main board of Christie's International.

Beach hut arsonist sets sparks flying in Frinton

By TIM JONES

AFTER recovering from the great fish and chip scandal, the residents of Frinton-on-Sea have been scandalised by another encroachment of modern life.

Their conviction that Frinton had nothing to attract the more vulgar elements of society has been shaken by a serial arsonist who is burning down their beach huts. So far this year, 34 huts have been burnt in 14 incidents in Frinton and neighbouring Walton-on-the-Naze.

Police have increased patrols in the staid Essex resort while council beach wardens equipped with radios hide in hope of catching the culprit. Some residents of the town — which has no pub, bingo hall, candyfloss stalls or churning ice-cream vans — predicted the place would change once

they lost a battle to prevent a fish and chip shop opening.

After that defeat, Frintonians thought they had held back the tide when last year members of the town's War Memorial Club voted overwhelmingly that accompanied women could only be admitted on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Such strictures, they believed, would prevent *hoi polloi* from venturing across the railway level-crossing that marks the boundary of their time-warped world.

Bob Newman, one of the wardens, said: "People do not expect this sort of thing to happen in Frinton. If it can happen here then nowhere is safe."

Roger Goodier, of Tendring district council, which licenses 2,700 beach huts, said: "It is extremely distressing to see what is

happening. Some people have broken down in tears when we have given the news to them that their huts have been destroyed. It is a most annoying state of affairs. There has been an epidemic of fires and we could have a serial arsonist operating along the seaford."

Sgt Alan Rusbridge, the officer in charge of the investigation, said: "It is possible people's lives could be in danger. Normally the huts are well alight by the time the police and fire brigade are alerted."

One hut owner, Robert Mays, 77, said he was fortifying his hut in an effort to save it from attack. Mr Mays said: "I have been coming to this beautiful and peaceful place for 40 years and now, as a pensioner, I am having to turn my hut into a fortress. It is very sad."

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Greenwich 2000 show faces £12m City loss

By Dominic Kennedy and Arthur Leathley

THE City of London is about to withdraw its promise of £12 million for the troubled Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich as the Cabinet decides whether to pull the plug on the whole show.

Michael Cassidy, who, in his former role as chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, organised the cash pledge in a desperate attempt to stop Birmingham winning the exhibition, said: "It has become a bit of a disaster story."

The fate of the £580 million show now lies with Tony Blair and a handful of Cabinet colleagues. Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, said: "A decision will be made during the next few days."

The Prime Minister is said to be keen to open the exhibition on December 31, 1999. The Treasury, though, fears a huge bill if the event flops. Labour ministers have been appalled by the lack of preparation for the show. Some called for the resignation of the Millennium Commission's only to find that, because they were appointed by the Queen, they are effectively unsackable.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a dome, big enough to contain 13 Albert Halls. Although the structure is on schedule to be completed in time, the Government was shocked to learn that nobody had decided what to put in it. Design tenders for the show's contents, worth £30 million, were put out only two weeks ago and give bidders no clue what ideas they are expected to produce. The dome will be pulled down after the year-long show.

Mr Blair has told the Department of National Heritage that the exhibition must

be so exciting that his son would insist on being taken to see it.

The Millennium Commission is giving £200 million of lottery money and the private sector was expected to stump up £150 million. The organisers claim that they have 80 per cent of that but admit that none of it is in written contracts.

The Corporation of London agreed to give £6 million on condition that individual institutions in the Square Mile matched the figure, which has not happened. Mr Cassidy said: "The rest of the City has proved very reluctant because they are not convinced it is good for their shareholders."

Most of the remaining income is supposed to come from visitors but many believe that the projected attendance of 10 million, four times as many as the Tower of London gets in a year, is too optimistic.

The Cabinet is expected to discuss the Millennium Exhibition on Thursday, but ministers insisted yesterday that Mr Blair would back the previous Government's pledge to support the Millennium Exhibition, even in the face of Cabinet dissent. "If a couple of people object, there are many others in Cabinet," said one senior frontbencher. Senior Labour figures say that the commission will be told to scale down the plans if businesses do not show greater enthusiasm in the coming months.

However, close colleagues of the Prime Minister said that he was adamant that the Government must show its own support to increase private-sector confidence in the project. "We need to get cracking. If we don't show a lead, then it will fail," one minister said.



The missing initial is from a 15th-century gradual, or book of chant, kept in a Florence monastery. Some have attributed it to Fra Angelico

Lost treasure was on living-room wall

A fragment from an illuminated manuscript has turned up in London, Dalya Alberge writes

A LOST-LOST segment of a lavishly illuminated 15th-century manuscript attributed by some to Fra Angelico has turned up in London, in the ownership of a woman who was unaware of its significance.

A 1430s capital "V" filled with children praising the Lord, and shimmering with pure lapis and gold, was brought to the valuation counter at Sotheby's by the elderly woman, who had no idea of its identity or value. She knew only that her great-grandfather, a magistrate and benefactor to the poor in Hounslow, had acquired it in the early 19th century. She had not seem to attach all that much importance to it in those days. They didn't say what it was. Just a 15th-century initial.

Christopher de Hamel, head of the

Western manuscripts department, said that he recognised the fragment instantly: "It is a most glorious thing." It fits exactly into a hole in a page of the magnificent Gradual of the monastery of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Florence. Graduals — books of musical chant — were produced on a huge scale so that, once on a lectern, they could be read by a whole choir. The segment alone is almost 1ft high.

It was originally one of 20 initials. The Gradual was separated from three of them in the French invasions of Italy in the 1790s; one eventually made its way to the National Gallery in Washington and the other is in the Bresslau Collection in New York. This example — which will be sold tomorrow for an estimated £30,000 — was brought to Britain by William Young Ottley (1771-1836), a collector of

Italian Old Masters, possibly after he visited Italy between 1791 and 1801.

Some scholars believe that it bears the hand of the great Florentine master Fra Angelico (c. 1387-1455). Others suggest it is by his teacher, Lorenzo Monaco, who died in the 1420s, or his contemporary, Battista di Bagio Sanguigni.

When the Washington example was exhibited at the Royal Academy in London, the catalogue noted "an undeniable link" with certain works by Fra Angelico of the late 1420s and 1430s — "the quaint figure types, the general compositional arrangement, and the combination of the different pastel shades of colour." Dr de Hamel noted that this one has "just the same style" but that it was impossible to be certain.

The owner, who does not wish to be

named, said: "I'm sad to part with it. It's been in the drawing-room for as long as I can remember." She noted how something of the letter's history had been written on the back, but it was so faded, she had been unable to read it. "It needed Dr De Hamel to decipher it."

She said that the whole family, including her son and daughter, would be attending the sale. "I'll dish some of the money out round the family." Her great-grandfather had been wealthy and public-spirited, donating funds to the local community, "but there's nothing much left now."

Dr de Hamel said that the lost initial came from the opening of the Mass for the Thursday after Easter. "By coincidence, the day the owner left it here for sale was the Thursday after Easter."

Free bus tickets for day without the car

By Nigel Hawkes

COMMUTERS are being urged to leave their cars at home tomorrow and experiment with other forms of transport. Some bus companies and local authorities will be offering free journeys.

Car-Free Day is part of the month-long Don't Choke Britain campaign. Tomorrow's attempt to reduce traffic comes during Walk to School Week, in which parents are being urged to accompany children to school on foot rather than driving them there.

Employers have been encouraged to allow staff to work from home tomorrow, or to provide accessible information about public transport services. The University of Oxford is distributing free vouchers for the city's Park and Ride scheme, and is urging those who cannot do without their cars to share journeys.

Campaign organisers point out that six out of ten car journeys are shorter than five miles, and a quarter are less than two miles. Short journeys are responsible for high levels of traffic pollution and are a major contributor to the 80 per cent increase in traffic expected over the next 30 years.

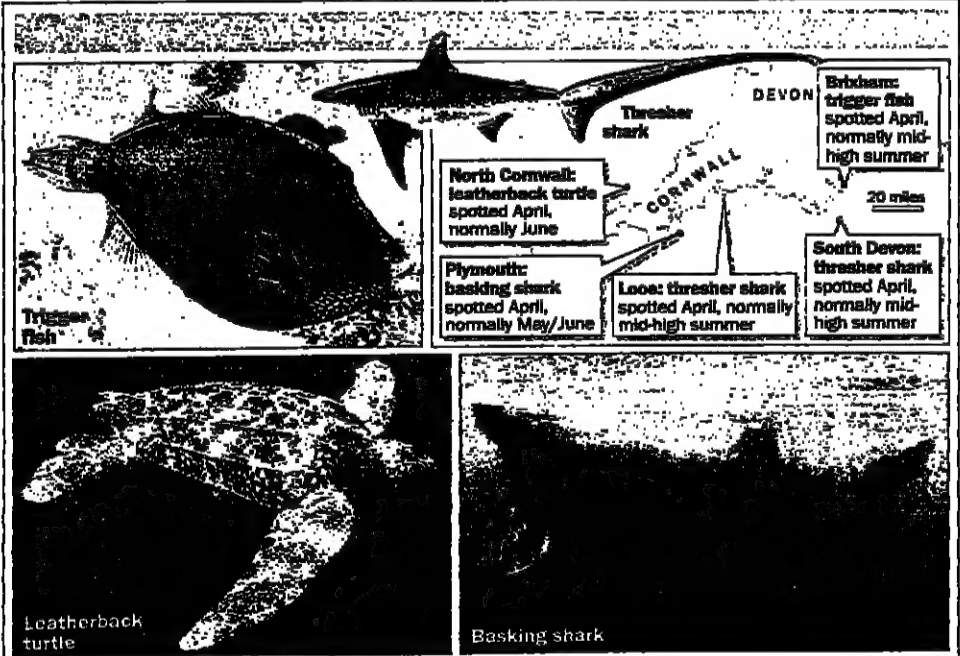
Walk to School Week is sponsored by the Pedestrians Association. The proportion of children being driven to school has doubled over the past ten years, to 25 per cent. Doctors warn that many youngsters are taking too little exercise.

The Don't Choke Britain campaign is backed by 400 transport and environmental organisations and local authorities. At its launch, Glenda Jackson, the minister responsible for transport in London, said that the Government's transport budget would increasingly help councils which put forward proposals for improving the lot of the pedestrian and the cyclist, which encourage train and bus use, and which reduce dependence on the car.

Leading article, page 21

Warmer waters bring strangers to the shore

By Neil Graves and Tim Jones



FISHERMEN are reporting early sightings of basking sharks, leatherback turtles and other exotic fish as the seas around Britain become warmer.

Scientists believe that changes in the North Atlantic drift, bringing the Gulf Stream closer to our shores, may be responsible for the changing habits.

Mark Nicholson, education officer for the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, said: "A number of marine species you would expect to occur further south are now appearing off our coastal waters earlier."

The warmer water is attracting prey, such as mackerel and jellyfish, closer to shore and these are followed by their predators. In April two thresher sharks were caught by fishermen off Cornwall and

south Devon. They were seen months earlier than expected and, at 15ft, were 3ft larger than the norm.

A basking shark of about 35ft was also seen in April, at least a month earlier than normally. For the past two years 8ft-wide sunfish have been seen long before the usual arrival in high summer.

An 800lb leatherback turtle, usually found during spring in the tropical Atlantic, was making its northerly round in April when sighted off Cornwall. Mike Millman, president of the South West Federation of Sea Anglers, said: "You wouldn't expect them until June."

There is argument among experts about whether the earlier sightings are a result of global warming. Mr Millman said: "Not enough evidence

has been gathered to make a hard statement. I would suppose it has something to do with the way the North Atlantic Drift is behaving when it meets the Gulf Stream about 1,000 miles away from our shores."

Colin Speedie, a marine analyst, said: "It may be something to do with warmer seas. But if you look at the way seas have been overfished, it may be that fish are swimming further to get their food. There are also far more people making sightings."

Rolf Williams, of the British Shark Trust, said that in spite of the early sightings, many sharks were becoming endangered species. He asked anyone who saw sharks to report the time, date and place.

Letters, page 21

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Story disclosed of German spies shot in Tower

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NOT far from where the Crown Jewels sit in the Tower of London, 11 people were shot at dawn by detachments of the Guards in the First World War, and one in the last war, for spying for Germany. The full story has never before been disclosed.

Now the details of the wartime executions, the first at the Tower for about 150 years, have been uncovered and appear in a new book. Some of the courts-martial records detailing their espionage activities have disappeared; and the files held by MI5, which was responsible for countering the threat from German spies, remain classified, although the Security Service is planning to release some of its earliest archives towards the end of the year.

Josef Jakobs was the only spy to be executed in the Tower of London in the Second World War. He was shot on August 15, 1941, after a court martial at the Duke of York headquarters in Chelsea. He had been found by two farmworkers at Ramsey Hollow in Huntingdonshire, lying under a camouflaged parachute with a broken leg. He had a pistol but claimed he was not on active duty. An attaché case under his body, however, revealed a wireless transmitter, a small torch with a flashing device and a map showing the RAF airfields at Upwood and Warboys.

The threat from German spies before and during the First World War led to the formation of MI5 under Captain Vernon Kell, known as K. MI5 succeeded in countering the operations of hundreds of enemy agents infiltrating Britain.

The 11 agents who were executed appear to have had little idea of what they were supposed to do once they arrived in this country, and none had been properly trained, according to information uncovered by Leonard Sellers, the author of the new book, *Shot in the Tower*, to be published later this month by Leo Cooper.

Carl Lody, a junior lieutenant from the Second Corps of the German Naval Reserve, was not trained as a spy but, having travelled in America and being quite well-to-do, was asked to go to England to gather information about the loss of British ships once the first naval engagement had taken place. He was due to go to New York and was told to stop off in England on the way. His service to his country would be unpaid, although he was promised that his expenses would be recompensed after the war.

He arrived as an American tourist by steamer at Newcastle upon Tyne on August 27, 1914, and moved to Edinburgh from where he sent a telegram to an Adolf Burchard in Stockholm. MI5 had had information about Burchard and were on to Lody immediately. All his subsequent telegrams and letters, one of which detailed how Russian soldiers were passing through Edinburgh, were read by MI5.

When he was arrested, the police found a notebook that contained the names of cruisers sunk in the North Sea and addresses in Berlin. His court martial was the only one not held in camera. He was sentenced to be executed and went to his death "a gentleman, unafraid", according to one of the yeoman warders at the Tower. He was buried at the East London Cemetery.

Sellers's book tells how 12 spies were executed

Another spy, Haicke Jansen, disguised himself as a cigar salesman and sent telegrams to German intelligence in which orders for Havana cigars were codes for the number of warships in the port of Southampton. William Roos, also posed as a cigar salesman. He sent telegrams indicating that there was a demand in naval ports for cigars. "What the Germans failed to understand was that the seamen who lived in ports were hardly ever cigar smokers, preferring pipes and cigarettes," Mr Sellers said.

His grave and black headstone is still there.

When Carl Muller was questioned by Special Branch, they discovered a lemon in his pocket which he claimed was for his teeth but it was to help write his secret messages in invisible ink. He also had a guide to the Tower of London. "Little did Muller know when he bought it that he would soon be part of its rich history," Mr Sellers said.

Like Lody, he was shot in the Tower because "it will have more effect on the country and possibly in Germany than an ordinary prison would have". He was taken there from Brixton prison in a taxi that broke down on the way; another had to be found. Before being executed he insisted on shaking hands with the members of the firing squad.

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Roos asked for a cigarette as his last request before he was blindfolded and shot.

The other spies shot at the Tower were Ernst Melin, a Swede who claimed he used his spycraft lemon juice for shaving; Augustus Roegen, a dapper man who had sent two postcards to known spies; Fernando Buschman, who was always short of money for his hotel bills; George Breckow, who collapsed in the dock when told he would be shot; Irving Ries, a pseudonym for an agent whose real name was never revealed; Albert Meyer, who used to dine in fashionable restaurants and died cursing his captors; and Ludovico Hurwitz-Zender, a Peruvian.



A gravely wounded Captain Aidan "Oozy" Liddell being cut from the wreckage of his RES after a mission during the First World War

Heroes' VCs recall selfless acts of courage

Medals won by three men who made the ultimate sacrifice are for sale, John Vincent reports

A PIONEER pilot, his leg smashed by enemy gunfire, manages a wave and a faint smile as he is carried away on a stretcher after being cut from his wrecked plane.

His bravado for the photographer masked a feat of the greatest heroism — and created one of the most memorable images of the First World War. Captain Aidan Liddell died of his wounds a month later. But his 30-minute flight and faultless landing after his RES was attacked by a German plane 5000ft over Belgium in 1915 earned him a Victoria Cross.

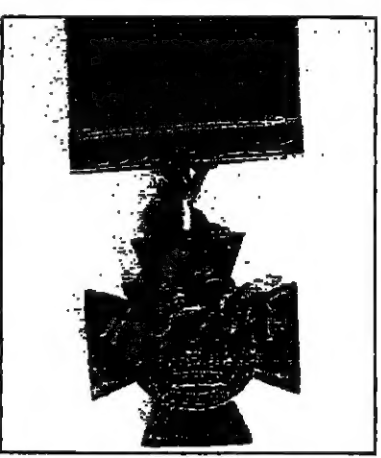
Now his medal, together with posthumous awards to two heroes of the Second World War, are to be sold at auction. One was to Lieutenant Alec Horwood, whose three-day assault on Japanese strongholds in Burma ended in victory but at the expense of his life. The other was to Flight-Lieutenant David "Lumme" Lord. Over Arrhen in 1944, he remained at the controls of his burning Dakota in a bid to save his crew, completing two supply drops before ordering his men to bale out, seconds before the aircraft broke up.

Captain Liddell's VC and other medals, including a Military Cross awarded for his bravery with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the bloody trench warfare of late 1914, are expected to fetch up to



Flight-Lieutenant "Lumme" Lord, whose self-sacrifice won him a VC, which is to be sold along with Captain Liddell's, right

£100,000 at Spink & Son in London on July 17. A similar price is expected for "Lumme" Lord's VC and other awards, including a DFC for his work in the Western Desert, where his show, virtually unarmed Dakota was shot down by two Me.109s, and in Burma, where he flew numerous unopposed missions in support of Orde Wingate's Chindits. Lieutenant Horwood's VC and his DCM, for escaping from captivity near Antwerp in 1940, should fetch up to £30,000. The "heroes of Captain "Oozy"



Liddell [so nicknamed by fellow pupils at Stonyhurst College because he was "always messing about with chemicals or engines"] followed a routine patrol over Ostend, Bruges and Ghent on July 31, 1915, after a burst of fire ripped through the rear cockpit and smashed into his right thigh, exposing the bone. The impact and shock rendered him unconscious. His RES lurched forward and rolled on to its back. After plunging 3000ft, Captain Liddell regained consciousness and

instinctively righted the plane despite half the controls being shot away and the undercarriage damaged. Despite the choice of a forced landing behind enemy lines and quick medical attention, he decided to make for Allied lines and freedom.

Lieutenant Horwood's VC, the first to be awarded on the Burma front, came when he was attached to the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, at Kyaukse, Burma, between January 18 and 20, 1944. According to the official citation, he led his last attack "with such calm, resolute bravery that the enemy was reached and, while standing up in the wire, directing and leading the men with complete disregard to the enemy fire which was then at point-blank range. He was mortally wounded."

His combination of VC and DCM is unique to the British Army.

Flight-Lieutenant Lord's VC was for "supreme valour" over Arrhen on September 19, 1944. His Dakota was twice hit when three minutes from the dropping zone but he carried on regardless. But two containers remained on board and, mindful of how important they might be to the 1st Airborne and Operation Market Garden, he rejoined the supply aircraft for a second run, aware that the collapse of his starboard wing was imminent.

science

ing of the Working Classes between 1884 and 1914, and the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, 1909-11, and Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, who visited the poor in the slums of London in 1936. The book, which is the first of a series, is published by Leo Cooper.

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It's time to end the secrecy, Sir Humphrey

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

THE fortified door at 70 Whitehall guards the entrance to the engine of the government machine. The Cabinet Office has a co-ordinating role throughout Whitehall. It drives the Cabinet committees, it handles intelligence, it determines the response to any crisis.

It is effectively the Prime Minister's own department, as most official chains of command lead to him, through Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary.

Staff at the Cabinet Office are generally regarded as the *crème de la crème* in Whitehall. So close to the centre of power — a door inside the building is just a swivel away from the Prime Minister at No 10 — Civil Service high-flyers police the Cabinet committees and set agendas for meetings.

A core role is that of the joint intelligence organisation, which oversees the nation's security. Each week it advises on the state of alert in the country. Its officials work closely with the Overseas and Defence Secretariat, sporting potential troublespots in the world and areas of conflict with other nations. The Intelligence and Security Committee Secretariat, just three people, deals with the most sensitive data supplied by the Security Services, analyse it, prepare general briefings and, in particular, focus on the situation in Northern Ireland.

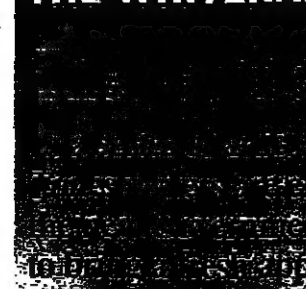
The European Secretariat keeps a close eye on Brussels and has a particularly critical role as the Government prepares for the presidency of the EC from January.

The Economic and Domestic Secretariat collates all the papers for the main domestic policy area and attempts to resolve disputes that might arise between ministers.

But the office building itself houses several different elements, some located at the centre purely as a matter of convenience.

For example, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has a small office in the building where he can read briefing papers between Cabinet committee meetings. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, also has a base to carry out his duties as head of

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION



the Constitution Unit, a group of officials preparing the legislative programme on devolution and the arrangements for referendums in Scotland and Wales.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, is based in this pivotal position to handle the Government's co-ordination and presentation of policy. His presence in the building gives the office its cachet.

Ann Taylor, President of the

Cabinet Office is regarded as Whitehall's *crème de la crème*

Council and Leader of the Commons, is also based here. She works closely with the Privy Council Office, is at hand for the numerous Cabinet committees and, from this office, takes charge of the government business.

But it is David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who will soon be established as the public face of the department. As the Cabinet Minister in charge of the Office of Public Service, he is determined to inject energy to the department to bring government closer to the people.

His office is opposite that of Mr Mandelson and there could be scope for considerable tensions: old versus new Labour. But both ministers are so engrossed in the business of government that there is no time to linger on past differences. Dr Clark is charged with simplifying government, changing the culture and bringing a new commitment to public service. He told

The Times that, in the past, his office "had been on occasions a sleepy administrative office". He is enthusiastic about the new technology and believes that new technology will be the key to producing a form or even a vehicle licence at the touch of a button.

Dr Clark said that the technology was "almost there to be able to pay by credit card on the computer and for a licence to come out of the machine almost instantly".

He is convinced that the technology will help to generate jobs. Many small businesses are burdened with the bureaucracy of employing staff. But a one-stop computer kiosk could help employers to sort out National Insurance payments and tax codes.

A new Whitehall committee is expected to be set up to co-ordinate the various ideas between departments to ensure that objectives are met. The flurry of stories about creeping privatisation of the Civil Service was not good news for ministers at the Cabinet Office as they attempted to raise morale, with staff weary from constant departmental reviews and market-testing. In a speech to civil servants tomorrow, Dr Clark hopes finally to bury the privatisation reports.

"I must literally have spoken to hundreds of civil servants on a face-to-face basis and not one of them has raised

this issue with me. It was precisely because we wanted to avoid the politicisation of the Civil Service that we brought in the Orders-in-Council and we exempted three posts. It is easy to have a chief of staff of the Prime Minister who is allowed only to advise. There may well be executive functions he has to take on in the interface between government and politics. It is even clearer with the chief press officer: it is inconceivable that the press secretary could not run his own press office.

Nonetheless, should there still be any lingering doubts, he is considering putting the Civil Service code on a statutory basis. This sets out the basis of the relationship between civil servants and officials and, if it became a Civil Service Act, any blurring of roles would be open to challenge in law.

Dr Clark is committed to open government and believes that the Freedom of Information Bill will change the culture of parliamentary and political life. The White Paper is due next month, and a draft Bill is expected in the autumn, to allow the fullest consultation on the issue.

He has also brought a fresh eye to the deregulation agenda. Dr Clark believes that red tape and regulations will be improved only if ministers and officials are proactive in Europe and suggest reforms. He is to meet a number of his European counterparts in the coming weeks to discuss the issue, and hopes that the British standard can be more frequently imposed on Europe. For example, Dr Clark hopes that the new Food Standards Agency will provide a blueprint for the rest of Europe.

LEADERS OF REFORM

SIR ROBIN BUTLER: Cabinet Secretary

Credited with successful transition of the new Government. He is at the hub of the Cabinet Office, with Cabinet secretaries reporting directly to him. Has been genuinely enthused by energy of the new regime. Known to be impressed by the political appointees and believes officials can learn from them. Aged 59, he is expected to step down at end of the year.



DAVID CLARK: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Quietly spoken and cautious. Former forester who became a teacher, lecturer, then MP. Thrown into deep end with this job after being passed over for the defence portfolio he shadowed. A strong believer in the public service ethos. Some colleagues find him worthy, but officials like his tireless enthusiasm. At 57, he must show fair to ensure he remains in post.



PETER MILFOYLE: Parliamentary Secretary

Cheerful extrovert aged 50 who represents one of poorest constituencies, Liverpool Walton. From a family of 14 children, he became a labourer, teacher and party organiser. As a backbencher, campaigned against quangos stuffed with Tory placemen and is determined to make public life accessible to ordinary people, and become their champion. But must think before speaking out in public.



ANDREW LAPPIN: special adviser
Oxford English graduate aged 24 from Northern Ireland. Worked for Dr Clark on defence brief in opposition. Will provide political advice and keep in touch with party and lobby groups.



ROBIN MOUNTFIELD: Permanent Secretary

Realises that Dr Clark must make an impact and has envisaged plans to keep his ministers in the public eye. Aged 57, deeply cautious but open to persuasion and new ideas.

ANN TAYLOR: President and Leader of the Commons

One of Labour's fastest rising stars. Proved her credentials as Shadow Leader of the Commons and effortlessly moved into government house and chairmanship of key Cabinet committees. Dependable and trustworthy, refused to leak details of sleaze inquiry during last session. Aged 49, mother of two. Keen to modernise Parliament.



IAN MACKENZIE: special adviser
Leading Labour campaigner who has worked for Mrs Taylor for five years. His party base is in Lewisham, but during the election he organised weekend canvassing of marginal seats. Will be more cautious in his new role, but will promote policies in tune with party members.



The In-Tray

Information Bill is due next month. What will be its scope? Watch out for attempts by some ministers to narrow the proposals.

- Will the Cabinet Office be made an official Department for the Prime Minister? Early signs are that staff are being used for more cross-departmental projects and Cabinet Office is taking on more vigorous co-ordinating role.
- White Paper on the Freedom of

- Quangos and public appointments: can a wider spread of candidates be brought forward to make public bodies less the domain of the middle classes?
- The future of Next Steps agencies. Will Ministers release some agencies for privatisation? Will chief executives be allowed to speak out on matters of policy?

- Ministers insist they will not be driven by dogma, but they might just be pushed by the Treasury.

- The denied Citizen's Charter programme is to have a new lease of life. People's panels to decide its future are to be set up. A round-Britain roadshow will help the relaunch.

- Ministers will try to calm the furor over alleged politicisation of the Civil Service. Ministers might introduce a Civil Service Bill to put present guidelines for

- maintaining impartiality of officials on a statutory footing.

- Cutting red tape will continue but with a new emphasis on the consumer. Ministers think the deregulation unit has been geared to business and not to the people.

- Simplifying government. The efficiency unit is being unleashed throughout Whitehall, looking for savings and better working methods. Expect an expansion on use of technology to provide

- public services and cut paperwork. One-stop computer kiosks are the way forward.

- Modernising government and Parliament. Cleaning up politics. Ministers have already set up a review of parliamentary privilege. The future of party political funding will be decided soon, in connection with the future of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, whose chairman, Lord Nolan, is to step down in the autumn.

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Philosophy student joins the search for life out there

By MARK HENDERSON

OXFORD UNIVERSITY has opened its own X file. A graduate student at Balliol College is writing a thesis on the philosophy of extra-terrestrial life.

Andrew Clark, 21, is studying the way in which different views of the world have influenced attitudes towards the search for intelligent life on other planets. Oxford's philosophy department is funding his research.

Mr Clark, who graduated last year with a first from Balliol in physics and philosophy, was inspired to write the thesis by Hamlet's line, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy." The words made him realise that no one had attempted a proper academic discussion of the philosophy of the search for ET.

He has been investigating his subject with all the fervour

of the FBI agents Mulder and Scully of *The X Files*, beavering away in the Bodleian library and surfing the Internet to find evidence of the way we have looked for life on other planets.

"In every society, people have looked for extra-terrestrials according to their own preconceptions. During the Cold War... the Soviets were basically looking for the Communist Party Interplanetary, the Great Soviet in the Sky. They felt that given the laws of historical materialism, there had to be an advanced communist culture 'out there'."

"The Americans took a very different approach, setting up radio telescopes to listen for deliberate messages from alien life. It was as if they were waiting to be contacted by Radio Free Andromeda."

He said that hostile attitudes towards aliens in the arts and the media, from *The War of the Worlds* to the recent films *Independence Day* and *Mars Attack!*, had been conditioned by a fear of dictatorship. In the 19th-century philosophers used the possible existence of aliens to argue for or against the existence of God.

Mr Clark also hopes to show how different methods of looking for alien life have developed in tune with cultural and philosophical attitudes. Scientists tend to be respectful of looking for aliens with radio-telescopes, but not of ufology, or *X Files*-style investigation of reported UFO

sightings, he said. "That's basically prejudiced, because neither branch has had any more success than the other. We see one as scientific because it has funky instruments, and the other as nutty because it seems based on ghosts and ghouls."

He thinks that only by taking a scientific approach to ufology can we hope to find a way of answering Professor Stephen Hawking's "Flying Saucer Puzzle": why, if it is likely there is life elsewhere in the universe, does it not seem to have visited us?

Charles Fort, who gave his name to Forteanism, the study of unexplained and paranormal events, will be commemorated with a plaque at the house in Marchmont Street, Bloomsbury, central London, where he lived from 1921 to 1928. The journal *Fortean Times* is sponsoring the plaque. Fort, who was born in New York in 1874, died in 1932.



Clark takes a scientific approach to ufology

ET, phone again, the line is clear

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE search for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe has just taken a big step forward. The most powerful system for analysing signals from space has been installed at the world's largest radio telescope, the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico.

"We have been searching the sky for signs of extraterrestrials with continuously increasing capability," said Professor Stuart Bowyer, from the University of California at Berkeley, who began the search 20 years ago. "So far, nothing. We are not giving up."

The new equipment, called Serendip IV (Search for Extraterrestrial Radio Emissions from Nearby Developed Intelligent Populations) is 40 times more powerful than earlier

searches, because of sophisticated computer programs that can sort through radio signals.

All signals detected so far have originated from human sources such as aircraft and satellites. Jeff Cobb, who is responsible for handling the data, said: "We detect intelligent signals all the time. Unfortunately they have all been from Earthlings."

Serendip IV can scan 168 million frequency channels every 1.7 seconds, analysing each for radio intensities above background levels. Selections are studied to eliminate any caused by interference, then the remainder are examined more closely. Support for the search has come from private sources and companies such as Toshiba, Intel and Sun Microsystems.



Linda Lampenius was reportedly spotted on the television show *Eurotrash*

Model violinist given lead role by Lloyd Webber

By PETER FOSTER

A LITTLE-KNOWN violinist with model looks is expected to star at Andrew Lloyd Webber's private music festival. Linda Lampenius, 27, reportedly came to the composer's notice after she appeared on the Channel 4 programme *Eurotrash*.

Lampenius, from Finland, is to adopt the stage name Linda Brava when her first British album, *Violator*, comes out later this year. She came to prominence last autumn when a cameraman picked her out while she was playing for the Finnish National Orchestra. She trained at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki before playing first violin for the Helsinki Opera Orchestra.

Lord Lloyd-Webber, who last week conceded that the days of the big musical could be numbered after he forecast losses of up to £10 million for his Really Useful Group, has staged the festival at his Hampshire home, Sydmon Court, for more

than 20 years. It is an informal gathering for friends and artistic colleagues and has often been used by the composer as a testing ground for new works.

Lampenius is expected to play a leading role in a performance of his composition *Metal Philharmonic*. She is also negotiating for a television talkshow in America, has appeared in fashion shows and been elected to Helsinki City Council.

Her growing profile is expected to fuel the debate over how classical music should be promoted. The teenage violinist Vanessa Mae has been derided by some for her raunchy image.

Barry Millington, music critic of *The Times*, said: "Critics will ask whether it is legitimate to exploit sex as a device to market classical music or whether classical musicians should remain above such populist techniques."

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Britain urged to build greener homes

New approach would protect rural land and promote towns

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

BRITISH homes are the most environmentally damaging in Europe, wasting resources and encouraging pollution and urban sprawl, according to researchers.

A third of the nation's energy is used to heat and light homes and more than a third of the water taken from rivers, lakes and boreholes is used to flush lavatories, wash up and water gardens, says the report funded by the Joseph Rowntree Trust and the National Housing Forum. Homes are ten times more energy inefficient than modern houses on the Continent. Water economy measures, such as low-flush lavatories, and water butts to collect rain, are a rarity. New housing is swallowing up to 11,000 hectares (27,200 acres) a year, mainly on the edge of towns.

The report, by researchers at centres including De Montfort University and the development consultants EDAA, says that postwar government policy has protected the green belt, national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty from great harm. But "policies have been less successful in checking housing growth in non-greenbelt areas accessible to towns". The researchers

believe that measures are needed to reverse this trend, including swift action by the Government to group together derelict and abandoned sites to create landbanks in inner cities. This would stop developers saying that they needed to build in rural areas because land was not readily available for large schemes in town and city centres.

The report says that homes that meet minimum environmental standards should receive kitemarks, like those given to goods by the British Standards Institute. Building

Leading article 21

regulations should be tightened to encourage energy efficiency through measures such as double-glazing.

The authors argue that families have little opportunity to buy homes that are resource-efficient. A good example, they say, is a five-bedroom house in Oxford that generates all the electricity it needs from 48 south-facing solar panels.

There is praise, too, for the electricity company Manweb. It thought that additional cables would have to be installed in Holyhead, North Wales, to

reinforce the system. Instead, it achieved a 10 per cent cut in peak demand by giving energy audits and free energy-saving devices to householders. This has enabled Manweb to avoid the cost of new cables for the foreseeable future.

The report claims that energy-saving schemes in Britain are fragmented and under-resourced. It says there should be encouragement for city car clubs, which operate in about 250 cities in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and The Netherlands. Club members can rent cars cheaply.

In Bremen, north Germany, a neighbourhood without garages and street parking is being built for people who do not own or want to own a car. It has been heavily oversubscribed. Copenhagen has cut car use by 10 per cent since 1970, helping to reduce air pollution, through a string of policies including banning commuters from parking spaces, prevention of through traffic and priority schemes for buses and bicycles.

□ **Living Places: Sustainable Homes, Sustainable Communities** (National Housing Forum, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JP; £15)

Role for shopping centres

By Nick Nuttall

OUT-OF-TOWN shopping centres could provide the nucleus for the new housing that will be needed over the next 20 years, according to the National House Builders Federation.

The Department of the Environment estimates that, because of family break-ups and people living longer, some 4.4 million new homes will be required in England by 2016, with pressure greatest on the South, South East and South West. It is thought that networks of protesters are being formed to fight housing schemes in the countryside, in a similar way that road

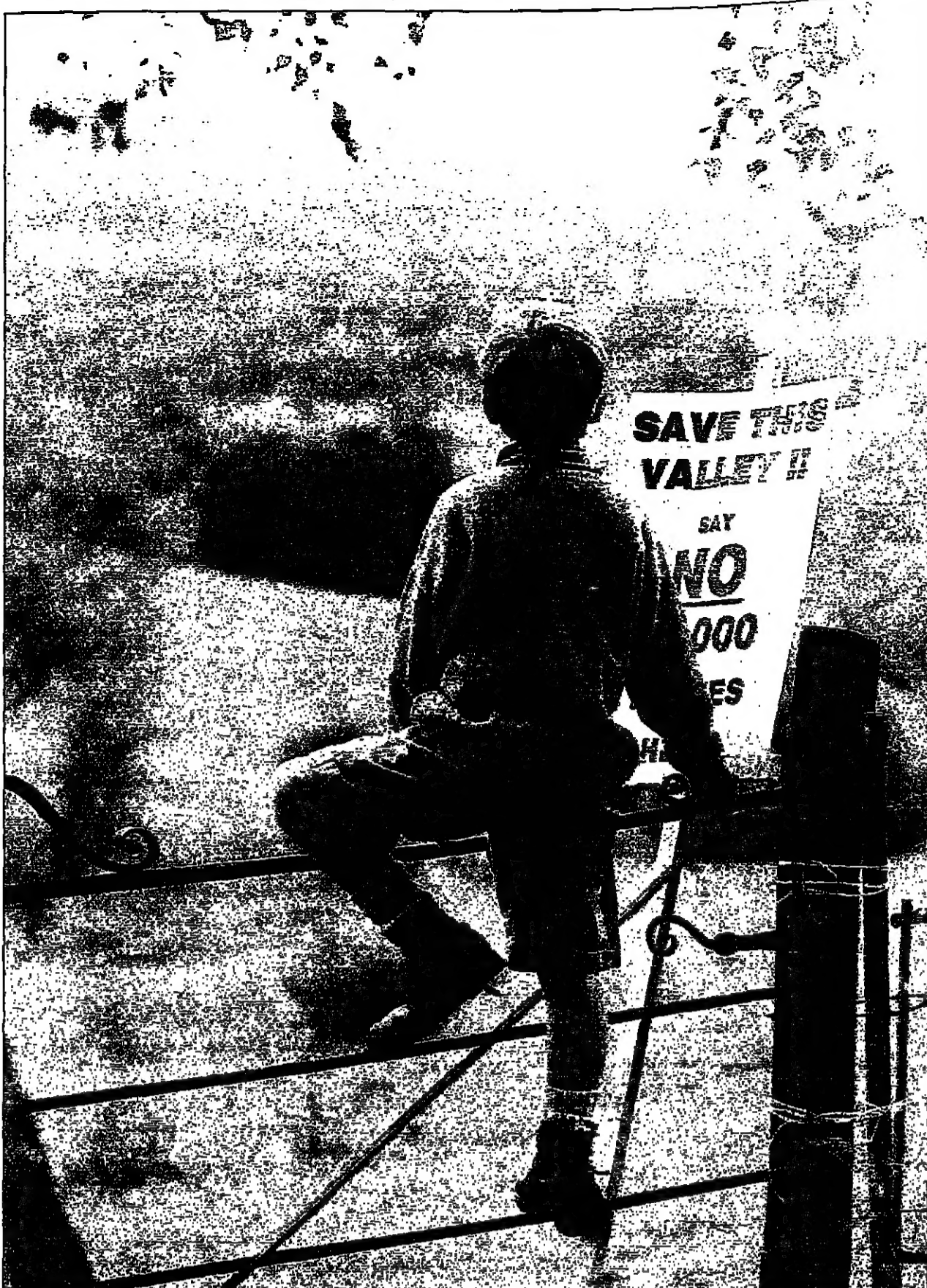
schemes have been opposed. Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, said: "There is concern on two counts — the loss of countryside and the traffic generated by the new homes."

The Government has stated that 50 per cent of new homes should be built in inner cities or on derelict sites. It said recently that it would like to raise the target to 60 per cent. The UK Round Table on Sustainable Development suggests the figure should be 75 per cent, to protect the countryside from urban sprawl. Ministers and officials are reviewing the options. More homes might be built in rundown industrial areas,

but people might be unwilling to live there.

The builders' federation proposes in a report that out-of-town shopping centres might "provide part of the solution by becoming the central hub of tomorrow's new towns". It says that the development of homes and schools locally could promote the use of public transport "and reduce the car traffic generated by trips to shops and schools".

Tony Burton, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said there was no evidence that building around out-of-town shopping centres would reduce traffic and road-building.



Idyllic childhood under threat: Oliver Boyd, 10, overlooking Slad Valley, which Laurie Lee fought to protect

Valley takes up Laurie Lee battle

A MONTH after Laurie Lee died in the knowledge that he had defeated plans to build on his beloved Slad Valley, villagers in the neighbouring valley are fighting plans for a new town (Kathryn Knight writes).

Half a mile away from where the author of *Cider With Rosie* spent his idyllic Gloucestershire childhood, Painswick Valley is known locally as the "Queen of the Cotswolds" and it is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. But if the development goes ahead, 1,500 houses and a 25-acre industrial estate will stand where coppices and streams now stretch to the

horizon. The proposals, by Stroud District Council, are part of a drive to help fulfil a government requirement for the creation of 4.4 million new homes in England and Wales by 2016.

Frank Cronin, an engineer from Painswick, and leader of the Painswick Valley Group, said that residents in villages around the valley were astonished to be told of the proposals at a planning meeting called by the council last month, only a few days after Laurie Lee

died. The author had fought a long campaign to save his valley from development, but Mr Cronin said: "What does an area of outstanding natural beauty mean if you can go ahead and build a huge development on it? If this development goes ahead, then presumably developers all over the region will have a better case to build in places like Slad Valley."

"This is a matter of principle. It is not about our garden, but about an English garden which deserves to

stay that way. No one expected this. We had a huge meeting when a plan for housing in the whole area was unveiled, with Painswick Valley targeted as one of the spots to take a whole new estate. We were all very shaken up."

"We asked if there was an alternative plan if we didn't like what we were seeing. We were told we had to wake up, get real and leave our timewarp. We were furious."

Mr Cronin added: "We have lots

of redundant aerodromes, infill land and green sites which could be used to soak up the extra housing needed. There are even villages that actually need additional houses to make them sustainable again so they can support a local shop. Why not build extra houses there?"

Stephen Greenwood, leader of the Labour-run council, denied that planners were running roughshod over local feeling, and said the proposals were still highly flexible: "Fifty per cent of our district is in an

area of outstanding natural beauty, and historically they have had very little development."

"The Vale has traditionally borne all the development so far, but if people do not like our plans to scatter housing then we will have to look at building a huge new town, which they don't seem to want either. But no final decision has been made, and won't be for some time."

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said that the plans were still at council planning stage and they were not able to comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Army calls for inquiry on 'puffin' drug claim

The Army has ordered an inquiry into claims that a Life Guardsman was so high on drugs on parade duty that he thought he was a puffin.

The allegation, in *The Sunday Times*, has been made by a former Life Guards corporal who said others in the regiment, which acts as the Queen's personal bodyguard, were sometimes so high they could not sit upright on horseback. Since the Army began random drug tests in January 1995, 641 soldiers have tested positive.

Celine memorial

The parents of the murdered French student Celine Figeat, 19, will today dedicate a memorial garden in Ombersley, Hereford and Worcester, the town where her body was found in January 1996. Stuart Morgan, a lorry driver, is serving life for the killing.

Fatal nap

A man who went to sleep under the front bumper of a coach at Bath Racecourse was crushed to death when the driver pulled away without seeing him. The victim, aged 34, had travelled on the coach with a group from Nottinghamshire.

Vicar replaced

The chaplain to the Archbishop of York is to take over the north Yorkshire parish where the Rev Roger Holmes was secretly filmed making love to his church secretary. The Rev David Wilbourn has been appointed vicar of All Saints Church, Helmsley.

Tryon flight bill

Lady Tryon, a friend of the Prince of Wales, is to be sent a £1,200 bill for a flight by police helicopter from Salisbury to a London hospital. The ambulance service mistakenly believed that she was too ill to travel by road after a spinal injury.

Cliff death

A 60-year-old Briton died after falling from a 330ft cliff in Mexico. Ernest Salq was posing for a photograph when he lost his balance. The death of a Briton in Guatemala City is under investigation by police. Angus Colville, 58, had been stabbed.

Television debut

An aerial has brought television pictures to what is believed to be the last village in Britain unable to receive terrestrial signals. The 120 residents of Thixendale, north Yorkshire, have taken a year to raise the cost of the £3,500 aerial.

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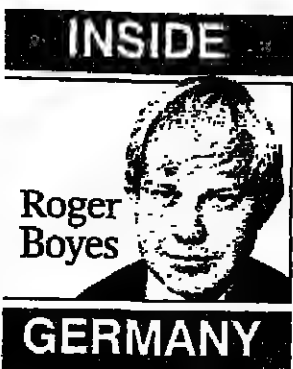
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Beer-and-sausage rebels savour lean times for currency king Kohl

The garden party season is in full swing in Bonn: crouched under awnings soggy with rain, crumpled refugees from the government crisis trade Eurogloom with diplomats who are beginning to write off Helmut Kohl's team.



Roger Boyes

GERMANY

instructive event: it reveals how strongly the French have made allies across the parties and the factions; the illusion that only Paris and Bonn

really matter is kept alive by the intensive care unit that is the French Embassy in Bonn. The most important summer bash is held by the Bavarian delegation in Bonn. Among the *Weisswurst* and foaming blond beer, Kohlologists have a field day. Bavaria is again making life difficult for a Chancellor. It is therefore critical to spot who is an acknowledged friend of Bavaria in Bonn and who, because of engagements elsewhere, keeps well away.

Helmut Kohl had big problems with Franz Josef Strauss, the late Bavarian Premier, and one wonders constantly what would have happened to the German leader if Strauss had not died prematurely. The Christian Democrats, together with the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), won 41.5 per cent at the last election — and about 10 per cent of that was the work of the Bavarians. As their popularity has fallen to 33 per cent, so the CSU's role has grown.

There is a massive erosion of support for Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister who is also CSU chairman. Every free weekend, Herr Waigel dashes to Bavaria and goes on bicycling tours with his wife and young son, or slaps backs in beer gardens. It is not doing him any good.

The CSU has thus strangled Herr Waigel down. It insists he should not fluctuate by even a fraction of a decimal from the 3 per cent public deficit target for economic and monetary union. The Chancellor, it is claimed, is ready to make the fudge. But the Bavarians are not.

In case Herr Waigel should be tempted to fall in with the Chancellor, Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Premier, fires warning shots from Munich. Herr Waigel is in a squeeze of Herr Stoiber's making. No retreat from 3 per cent, comes the message from Munich. No cutbacks in Eurofighter funding (Bavarian jobs at stake), no further cuts in spa resorts (many are in Bavaria), no raising of petrol tax (Bavarians are the most active German commuters). The

tension between Herr Waigel and Herr Stoiber have cracked since the death of Strauss. Bavaria's absolutism means it is best ruled by a man who is simultaneously Premier and CSU party chief.

So Herr Stoiber, a workaholic who terrifies the traditionally relaxed bureaucracy of the south, wants to dislodge Herr Waigel. Herr Stoiber commands a mighty armoury of populist weaponry. For three years he has urged a delay in the euro if Germany does not reach EMU targets. The Chancellor has shrugged off the advice. Now an anti-euro coalition is emerging, dissident former central bankers, Social Democrat politicians such as Gerhard Schröder, some businessmen and some unions — and while it is still a ragamuffin army, its general is Herr Stoiber.

There are several possible tank traps awaiting an unsatisfactory euro — a constitutional court challenge backed by a hostile Bundesbank and a surly populace — but Bavaria holds the key. It can pull the rug from under Herr Kohl's feet. Herr Stoiber is cold-blooded enough for the task: his doctoral thesis as a law student was on breach of the peace.

Jobs riot heralds showdown over Jospin's remedy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch police were still clearing up the mess from a violent demonstration for jobs in Amsterdam yesterday as Europe's finance ministers deliberated deep inside a summit venue that resembled an armed camp more than ever.

The French-inspired squabbling over the euro has merely added to the awareness among European Union leaders that their meeting to revamp the Maastricht treaty is likely to do little to fulfil their goal of "bringing Europe closer" to its disgruntled citizens.

The Saturday riot, which involved Italian, French and other demonstrators from the high-unemployment southern states, rumbled home the anguish felt by European leaders over their failure to be seen boosting jobs and over the widening gulf between the remedies they are proposing.

The Amsterdam gathering is the climax of two years of talks to prepare the Union treaty for embracing the former communist states. But Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, made clear a bigger priority now prevailed — reassuring the people. "It is imperative to convince our citizens that we have not in our drive toward economic and monetary union, lost sight of the need to continue and indeed step up our action in the fight against the source of unemployment," Mr Kok said in his eve-of-summit letter to the other 14 leaders.

Beyond the good intention, however, the EU is now pulling itself apart over the methods needed to reduce unemployment from the current 18 million. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister of France, is determined to fulfil his election pledge of refutation and is prepared to risk an EU feud to get the fiscal straitjacket of the "Maastricht criteria" relaxed. He wants to pump billions of pounds of EU funds into railway and other infrastructure schemes to make jobs.

The idea, a revival of the 1993 "Delors plan", brought cries of horror from Germany when M Jospin put them to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, on Friday. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, who is trying to regain his reputation for rigour, talked privately of "provocation". Yesterday he said: "I will not go along with a scheme under which Germany pays one third to

Europe and gets only 15 per cent back." A little EU spending will be envisaged in the new employment chapter, to be part of the Treaty of Amsterdam, but with severe restrictions.

The expected deal over the stability pact for the euro will be greeted as another classic EU compromise, but the French are insisting they will no longer swallow what they call German "monetary fundamentalism". François Hollande, M Jospin's likely successor as leader of the French Socialist Party, said yesterday: "Germany needs to be pushed because there are too many in Germany who worry solely about financial criteria."

M Hollande claimed that Germany was on the defensive. "Today, the Belgian Government is behind us and certain northern European governments understand our preoccupation with employment. Tony Blair also agrees with our position."

That last claim raised eyebrows among Downing Street officials last night as Mr Blair tried to exert some influence on the other new-boy EU leader. Mr Blair's belief in pro-market rigour is miles from M Jospin's ideas.

The parents of the murdered French student Céline Figini, 19, will today dedicate a memorial garden in Ombreux, Herford and Worcester, the town where her body was found in January 1996. Stuart Morgan, a lorry driver, is serving life for the killing.

The chaplain to the Archbishop of York is to take over the north Yorkshire parish where the Rev Roger Holmes was secretly filmed making love to his parishioner. The Rev David Williams has been appointed vicar of All Saints Church, Helmsley.

Lady Tremaine, a friend of the Prince of Wales, is to be seen at a £1,250 ball for a charity to police helicopter from Salisbury to a London hospital. The ambulance service was taken to hospital that she was to be treated by road after a spinal injury.

A 16-year-old British girl, who had been taken to hospital in a private ambulance, was found dead in a London house. The girl's father, who had been taken to hospital, was found dead in a London house. The girl's father, who had been taken to hospital, was found dead in a London house.

An aerial bus brought to a station premises in which a believed to be the last of the British people to meet terrestrial waves. The death of a British in London was under investigation by police. A British girl, who had been taken to hospital, was found dead in a London house.

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London's viewpoint on summit hurdles

Proposal: Frontier controls across continental Europe to be removed. The Schengen agreement, which guarantees freedom of movement between some member states, to become subject to the jurisdiction of Brussels and the European Court. There would be a common immigration, visa and asylum policy.

Proposal: The integrationists want a new defence arm for the EU, with the Western European Union gradually being absorbed into that role. The idea of an eventual European army is given credence by the treaty text which speaks of "the progressive framing of a common defence policy in the perspective of a common defence".

Proposal: A commitment by European governments to co-ordinate their economic policies with the goals of growth and job creation. Limited plans to spend money on promoting jobs, in line with French demands, but scope for spending severely limited.

Proposal: More co-operation at EU level to avoid impression that EU is often impotent in international disputes, such as Bosnia.

Proposal: Foreign policy to remain responsibility of national governments. He will accept appointment of a "Mr Europe" to co-ordinate EU foreign policy. Already accepted by the rest that the veto will remain.

Proposal: To reduce the size of the European Commission to adjust voting weights in the Council of Ministers.

Proposal: Britain will sign up, but wants two-year delay in implementing existing directives on parental leave and works councils.

Proposal: Britain is close to a deal on question of foreigners buying up British quotas to fish in British waters. Wants foreign fishermen to be required to land specified amounts of catches at British ports and to use British crew.

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A San family living at the Schmidtsdrift camp near Kimberley

Bushmen accuse ANC of racism

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

BUSHMEN, Southern Africa's indigenous inhabitants, who were once hunted as vermin by white and African settlers, now complain that they have been branded second-class citizens by a black administration.

A leader of more than 4,000 Bushmen, or San, complained at the weekend that Manne Dipico, Premier of the Northern Cape Province, had said that they were "of a lesser standard" than local Bantu-speaking Tswana people.

The alleged slur has raised fears among the San that the racism of the apartheid era is being directed at South Africa's few surviving aboriginals. Before white men arrived at the Cape, and the Bantu migrated from Central Africa, the lands south of the Limpopo River were roamed by the yellow-skinned San and Khoi, or Hotentot, peoples.

But by the end of the last century, most had been wiped out or driven into the Kalahari Desert and other inhospitable areas. The Khoi are now

extinct and the few surviving San cling to an existence at the margins of the habitable world.

For the past seven years, about 4,300 San from the Caprivi Strip in Namibia and southern Angola, who served in the South African Defence Force in the 1970s and 1980s as trackers and infantrymen, have been camped on barren rock at Schmidtsdrift near Kimberley. Scores have died while their claim to a £1 million farm they say they have purchased has been held up by a moratorium imposed by the local African National Congress administration.

In the racial pecking order established under apartheid, the hunter-gatherer San were lumped together with blacks, below the so-called Coloureds, or people of mixed race. But since non-racial elections in 1994, the San soldiers and their families have been consigned to the ethnic dustbin of South Africa.

Charles Hallatt, the commander of the Schmidtsdrift

camp which is run as a form of army charity, told *The Star* newspaper at the weekend that his staff dealt with ten new tuberculosis cases every month. He said that three nurses were assigned to more than 1,000 patients and that they were unable to contain the spread of the disease which threatens to become an epidemic among the San.

Mario Mahongo, a San leader, accused Mr Dipico of favouring Tswana over the San. Mr Mahongo claimed that when a delegation from Schmidtsdrift went to see Mr Dipico, to ask why they had been unable to obtain access to their land, he had shouted abuse at them, saying that they were "of a lesser standard" than the Tswana.

"First the [all-white] Nationalist Government broke their promise to supply us with housing and now the democratic Government chooses to ignore us. All the time we are being made to feel unwelcome and that we have no right to this land," he said.



A San woman — dubbed "inferior" by the provincial Premier

Albania cheers again for Berisha

FROM TOM WALKER IN KORCE

THEY WANTED to skin him alive in March. Now he strolls unprotected through the streets of the capital and even arrives in the gangster-controlled south to cheers. With elections imminent, Albania seems to be forgiving Sali Berisha.

Yesterday President Berisha took his campaign along Albania's historical east-west axis, the Via Ignatia, inland to Lake Ohrid and then south to Korçe — two months ago a strong contender for Albania's most anarchic city, and a hotbed of so-called rebel discontent. "The dangers are there to be faced, there is no alternative," he confided before the journey.

Three very Balkan hours later, a modest crowd of 2,000 emerged from the shadows into the dusty main square of an Orthodox city once known as "the Albanian Paris," and chanted: "We will win, yes, yes, yes." There was neither whiff of cordite nor opposition.

A beaming Mr Berisha gave the victory salute and railed against "the false pyramids of lies" constructed by his Socialist foes. A man once blamed for the collapse of the disastrous savings schemes is now using them as word-plays in his speeches.

For reasons of lack of finance or a Democratic Party-controlled media, the Socialists' big guns of Fatos Nano and Bashkim Fino are failing to make their presence felt. In the more populous south their territory is shrinking, while the north remains an odd mix of monarchists and Berisha diehards. The Socialist campaign is in urgent need of a kickstart.

"I'm talking with my heart now," confessed one presidential aide as he took a paddle in Lake Ohrid yesterday. "Berisha is the least worst option. The people cannot find a substitute for him."



Berisha: voters see him as best of a poor lot

WORLD SUMMARY

Tudjman's pledge to voters

Zagreb: President Tudjman of Croatia promised a rich and democratic future for his country yesterday after casting his ballot in a presidential election which the opposition has branded undemocratic.

Vlado Gotovac, of the Social Liberal Party, and Zdravko Tomac, of the Social Democrats, the opposition candidates, have criticised Mr Tudjman, 75, favourite to win, for using state institutions and funds to promote his election campaign. (Reuters)

Child work ban

Delhi: Tamil Nadu in southern India has become the country's first state to ban civil servants from employing children, it was reported here. The administration ordered employees not to use children aged less than 14 for any work, including domestic chores, after an appeal from the National Human Rights Commission. Nearly 50 million children work for meagre wages in India. (AFP)

Sudan massacre

Khartoum: Armed rebels killed 142 civilians in southern Sudan, the state-run Omdurman radio reported. A security official said it was "one of the ugliest atrocities" committed in Sudan. The report said members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army killed 87 children, 41 women and 14 elderly men. The rebels also abducted several girls and stole cattle. (AP)

Gas field ablaze

Dhaka: An explosion set fire to a gas field in northeast Bangladesh. At least four rig workers were injured. Flames leapt 500ft into the air, an official statement said. Specialist fire experts from Singapore and America were being flown in. Energy Ministry officials said the blast occurred when the rig pipeline hit a "trapped gas" layer at a depth of 2,755ft. (Reuters)

Kidnap class

Taipei: Schoolchildren were taught kidnap survival techniques at a privately funded workshop here amid growing fears of abduction in Taiwan. They learnt how to stay calm with their mouths taped in mock kidnappings while other children smacked and threatened them, how to slip wrist bindings and what to listen for when blindfolded. (AP)

Bosnia rejects retrial over living 'dead'

Sarajevo: A court here rejected an appeal to give a Bosnian Serb a new trial even though two of the three men he was convicted of killing have been found alive, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Sretko Damjanovic was found guilty of war crimes and genocide, and sentenced to death in March 1993 for killing two Muslim brothers, Kasim and Asim Blekic, and a third man as the Bosnian war broke out. He is in jail in

Sarajevo. Branko Maric, Damjanovic's lawyer, found the Blekic brothers alive and appealed for a new trial.

The Sarajevo daily *Ostobodjenje* said Domin Mahasic, the prosecutor, agreed on a new trial, but that he had since been replaced. The new prosecutor, Munib Bistic recommended that the court reject the appeal. A three-judge panel led by Judge Dzenana Latic went along with Mr Bistic's recommendation, the paper said. (AP)

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Fears of Pol Pot 'ruse' as factions battle in jungle

FEUDING factions of the Khmer Rouge, one of them thought to be led by Pol Pot, were fighting yesterday in the jungles of northern Cambodia, after last week's murder of the organisation's former defence chief Son Sen and his wife and family as "traitors".

If reports are true, Pol Pot, 250 of his fighters and their families and three "hostages", are surrounded by up to 2,000 Khmer Rouge fighters who backed Son Sen and wished to discuss surrender with the Government in Phnom Penh. Pol Pot is reportedly being carried in a stretcher with intravenous drips attached to his arms and is now 12 miles from Anlong Veng near the border with Thailand.

Army officers close to the First Co-Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who flew to the northwest city of Siem Reap, near the Angkor temples, reported they could hear gunfire in radio contact with Khmer Rouge elements apparently wishing to settle



The Khmer Rouge is tearing itself apart, but all may not be as it seems, James Pringle reports from Phnom Penh

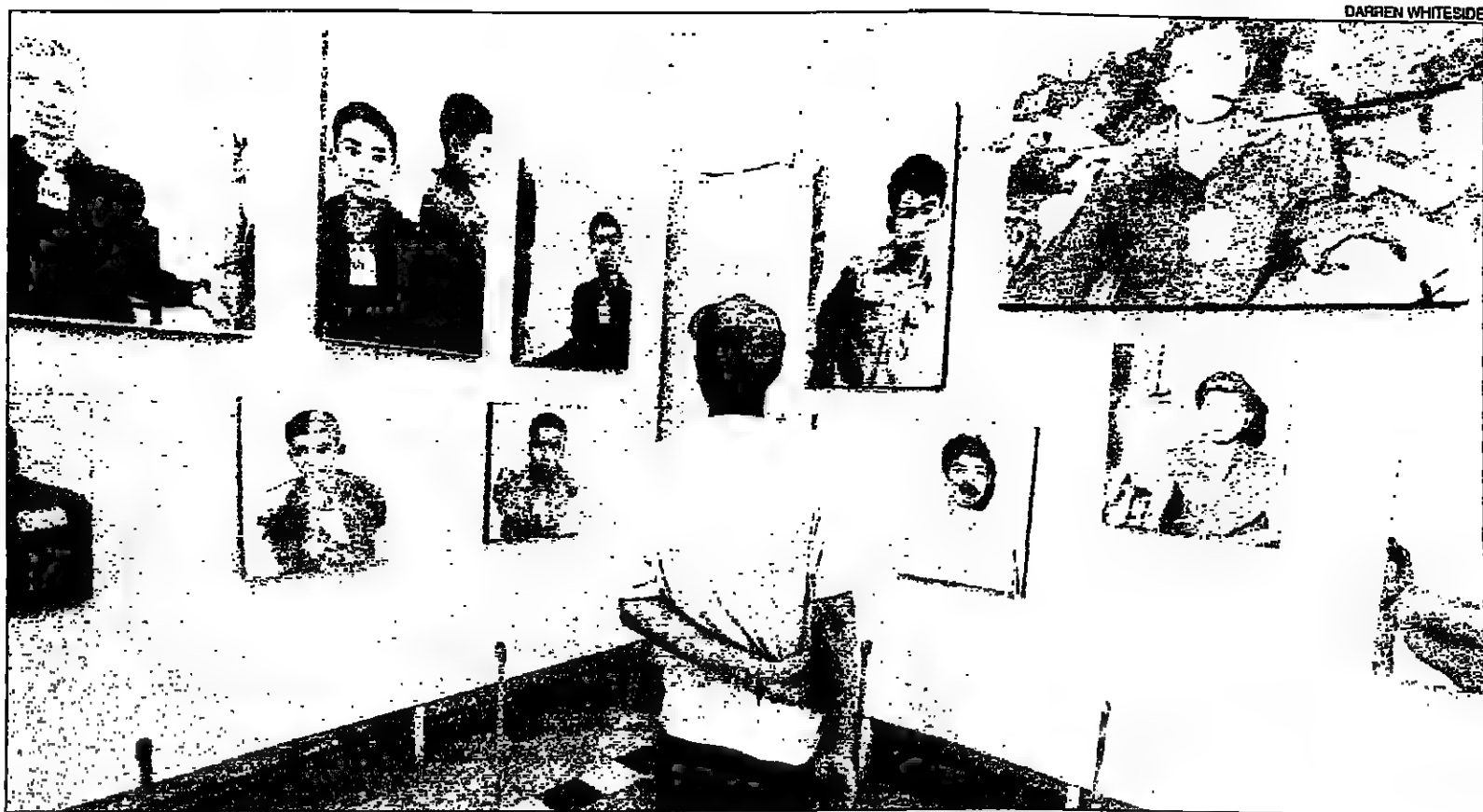
with the Government. "The Khmer Rouge is devouring itself," said one Phnom Penh-based diplomat yesterday.

However, nobody claims they really know what is going on within the organisation, which makes a fetish of secrecy, and while there have been murders in the leadership it is not clear how much of the new talk of splits may be part of an elaborate ruse of Pol Pot.

There are so many layers of deception here that it is difficult to be sure of anything, except that Son Sen is dead and that the remaining hardline Khmer Rouge seem to be seriously split," said one analyst. Yet Phnom Penh-based diplomats find it hard to believe that Pol Pot would

break with "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, the clever military strategist and brutal killer Ta Mok, and Khieu Samphan, the French-educated intellectual who wrote the blueprint for the Khmer Rouge revolution and whose defection would be welcomed by Prince Ranariddh.

Envoys say they could see why Pol Pot ordered Son Sen, 67, and his influential wife, Yun Yath, killed on June 10, along with their family: Son Sen's brother has already defected to the junior partner in the coalition that has been governing Cambodia since UN-sponsored elections in 1993. "Pol Pot has been with his other henchmen for so many years, and they had stuck



Tuol Sleng torture centre in Phnom Penh, now a genocide museum, was run by Khmer Rouge defence chief Son Sen, reported killed by Pol Pot

together so long, it is hard to see a break now," noted one envoy. "One has to suspect some kind of manipulation." Some analysts speculated that, by showing the other three as Pol Pot's hostages, they might become more cred-

ible in the political process that will culminate in fresh elections next year.

"Pol Pot knows he is unacceptable, but perhaps he is seeking respectability for the other three, who will then be able to protect him," said one

analyst. Much of the information coming out of the area of Anlong Veng, the last stronghold of the hardliners 200 miles north of here, about the military situation and the possibility that the British mine-disposal expert Christo-

pher Howes, who was captured in March 1996 at Angkor, may be held with Pol Pot, is being disseminated by the army's Deputy Chief of Staff, Nhiek Bun Chhay.

Most observers reluctantly accept Mr Howes must be dead, either murdered or as a result of malaria or another illness. "I don't believe Howes is alive," the Second Co-Prime Minister, Hun Sen, said.

However, there is little doubt that the remnants of the Khmer Rouge, which lost most of its strength last August when Ieng Sary, the former Foreign Minister, crossed to the government side with up to 10,000 of his men, is now unravelling fast.

What is happening to the Khmer Rouge, and the bloody but deserved end that befell Son Sen, who gave the order to evacuate Phnom Penh in 1975, ran the Tuol Sleng torture

centre in the capital, and is credited with ordering the killing of tourists who fell into his men's hands, is a mirror image of what is occurring in Phnom Penh in the run-up to elections next year.

These elections will pit Prince Ranariddh's royalist Funcinpec party against Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the former Communists, and both sides in the uneasy coalition have been seeking to enlist the defecting Khmer Rouge to its cause.

This is what led to the death of Son Sen, who was believed to be planning to join his brother, Ni Korn, who had defected to Hun Sen's side. The Khmer Rouge has long considered Hun Sen, once a Khmer Rouge fighter, a "Vietnamese puppet", as he came to power after the Vietnamese invasion that overthrew the Khmer Rouge in early 1979.

Hong Kong laws 'curb freedoms'

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE Foreign Office yesterday described as "unjustified and unnecessary" plans by the Beijing-appointed Provisional Legislature to curb civil liberties in Hong Kong.

New laws which were approved on Saturday by the legislature had already caused concern in Hong Kong and internationally, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The Provisional Legislature, meeting across the border in Shenzhen, China, because of opposition in Hong Kong, completed the third and final readings of the laws, which will restrict demonstrations and impose controls on political organisations. The laws will allow the police to ban demonstrations to protect public order or "national security".

The legislature will replace the elected Legislative Council, which is to be dissolved at midnight on June 30 when the colony is handed over to China.

Despite the condemnation

from London, Rita Fan, president of the provisional body, insisted the critics of the new legislation would be proved wrong. Speaking in Shenzhen, she said: "Hong Kong people will find their freedoms unchanged. They will then remember the remarks made by the British Government and the Foreign Office and many others, and Hong Kong people will understand."

She said the changes were in line with Hong Kong's Basic Law and international human rights covenants.

However, Martin Lee, chairman of the Democrats, Hong Kong's most widely supported party, said the approval of the new laws represented "a step backward for freedom".

The term "national security" could become an excuse for quashing pro-democracy protests, Mr Lee said. "Laws must not take away rights from the people of Hong Kong, but rather must protect individual rights and freedoms."



A gambler, wallet poised, studies the Sha Tin form

Punters grab £56m at colony's last race day

Hong Kong: A gambling bonanza that gripped Hong Kong ended last night with a world record \$HK719 million (£56 million) payout to conclude the horseracing season two weeks before the colony reverts to Chinese rule.

Punters had to identify the first three horses in three races for a triple trio wager — there are 48 million possible outcomes — that excited gambling-mad Hong Kong, which annually has a horserace betting turnover equal to about £6 billion. Nobody got all

nine horses, but 353½ bets of \$HK10 each gained \$HK2.03 million. The Guinness Book of World Records lists the last world horseracing payout record as £980,000 in California in 1987.

About 88,000 people, many first-time horse gamblers, crammed into the Hong Kong Jockey Club's race course at Sha Tin to test their luck. The club distributes profits to community causes, and says that it is one of the world's five largest philanthropic organisations. (AFP)

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Gulf War illness report takes aim at White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE US Congress is to issue a new report on Gulf War Syndrome that will fiercely criticise the Pentagon and the White House for failing to recognise links between chemical weapons and the illnesses reported by veterans.

The report, coming in the wake of separate government conclusions that Iraqi chemical and biological agents were probably not responsible for the health problems of military personnel who served in the Gulf, can only confirm the view among veterans' groups of a widespread cover-up by the Clinton Administration.

In its inquiry, the General Accounting Office, the investigative branch of Congress, has found substantial evidence linking the various maladies to chemical gas.

Its conclusions, due this month, will be watched closely by the British Government after the Prime Minister's guarantee last month of further funding for research into Gulf War Syndrome among British veterans.

The GAO has also concluded that Iraqi biological weapons, including anthrax, a group of potent liver carcinogens, could be responsible for the fatigue, headaches, nausea, memory loss and reports of painful joints among an estimated 80,000 veterans who have requested special medical check-ups.

Sections of the report, published by *The New York Times* yesterday, contradicted previous findings by both the Pentagon and a presidential advisory committee which claimed that the physical after-effects of wartime stress

were a more likely cause of illness.

The link between stress and these veterans' physical symptoms is not well established, said the office, "and the reported prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among Gulf War veterans may be overestimated."

It said the departments were also wrong to rule out the effects of nerve gases such as sarin and other chemicals weapons. "There is substantial evidence that such compounds are associated with delayed or long-term health effects similar to those experienced by Gulf War veterans."

After five years of adamant denials, the Pentagon finally announced last year that more

than 20,000 Americans may have been exposed to sarin nerve gas after engineers demolished the ammunition depot at Kamisiyah in southern Iraq in March 1991.

In February, the department admitted that 80 per cent of the US military logs recording the detection of chemical weapons during the Gulf War had been lost, provoking even greater accusations by veterans that the Administration had kept the truth secret.

Kwai Chan, principal author of the congressional study, was said to be very confident of its conclusions. His investigators also believe that clouds of chemicals could have reached US troops as a result of bombing raids on Iraqi chemical plants and storage depots early in the war. The inability of United Nations inspectors to visit all the damaged sites, said the report, meant that the "magnitude of exposures to chemical warfare agents has not been fully resolved."

It cited evidence that Iraq had stockpiled anthrax before the war and that the side-effects of the agent were often not discovered until years after low-level exposure.

Christopher Shays, a Republican congressman from Connecticut who has been a leading critic of the Pentagon and White House handling of veterans' claims, called for independent research into the syndrome. "The report supports the idea that we should take the Gulf War research programme away from the Pentagon and give it to someone who really wants to find some answers," he said.

Israeli leader escapes charges

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

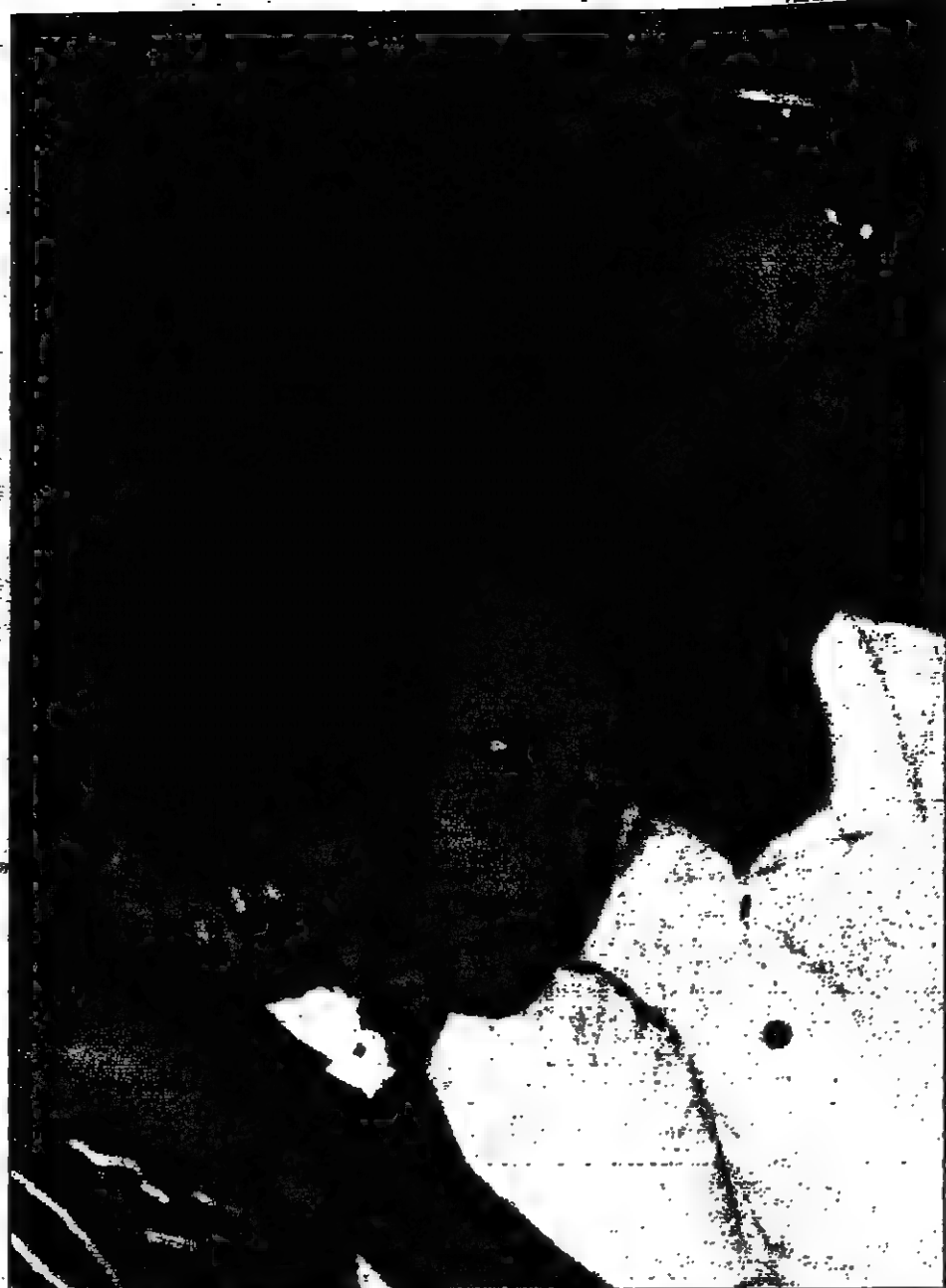
A SIX-MONTH political sleaze scandal that once threatened to topple Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, finally faded yesterday when the Israeli High Court rejected a petition demanding that he be charged with fraud.

Four judges on the five-member panel refused to overrule a decision by state prosecutors not to charge the right-wing Prime Minister in the affair that was dubbed "Big Game" after his nickname and arose from the short-lived appointment of a political crony, Roni Bar-On, as Attorney-General.

Although one judge, in a minority decision, did generate further criticism, demanding that the state attorney show cause for his decision not to charge Mr Netanyahu, close aides of the Prime Minister claimed that the judgment closed the door on the affair.

Most political commentators agreed with them, although left-wing opposition politicians continued to try to use the 4-1 verdict as cause to stir the political pot. "This means that 20 per cent of the panel thought this Prime Minister should stand trial. Today the countdown has begun for Benjamin Netanyahu's rule," argued Yossi Beilin, of the main opposition Labour Party.

Independent observers said that the scandal peaked on April 20 when the highly respected new Attorney-General, Elyakim Rubinstein, overruled police calls for Mr Netanyahu to be charged, claiming that the case was based on the testimony of one witness which was insuffi-



Hela and Keren Ivri, 14-year-old Israeli twins wounded when Ahmed Daqamsa, a Jordanian soldier, shot dead seven of their schoolfriends, cling to their father after giving evidence to an Amman military court as his trial started yesterday

cient for bringing charges. The judges also unanimously rejected similar petitions demanding that Tsahi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, be indicted.

The Israeli police, in a report likened to a political time-bomb, had recommended that both Mr Netanyahu and Mr Hanegbi be charged

with fraud and breach of trust. Had the Attorney-General upheld that decision in regard to Mr Netanyahu, it is unlikely that the 66-34 majority of his coalition in the Knesset could have survived. Israelis, cynical about the wheeling and dealing involved in their politics, have dismissed the machinations

over the appointment of an Attorney-General as not out of the ordinary.

Street battles: For the second day running, there were street clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. At least 15 Palestinians were wounded.

New York braced for battle on rent rises

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Byzantine system of rent controls, instituted as a temporary measure during the Second World War, was last night on the verge of collapse, raising fears of violent conflict between tenants entrenched in their apartments and landlords who want to evict them.

Under pressure from conservative Republicans who control the New York state's Senate, rent protection could be scrapped for all but the infirm and elderly, ensuring that rents would be determined by supply and demand rather than by the stroke of a bureaucratic pen.

Yet resistance to change is so fierce that Joseph Bruno, the Senate majority leader and prime mover of the campaign for reform, has received several death threats. Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Republican Mayor, has opposed the scrapping of rent controls.

The facts, now almost obscured by hysteria, are that an astonishing 56 per cent of New York's 1.9 million rented homes have their rents "mispriced", determined in fact by a public agency without regard to the market. The median rent is \$600 (£370) a month, at least 30 per cent below the market rate.

Contrary to publicity put out by tenants' associations, however, the poor hardly benefit, since they live in public housing subsidised by taxpayers, not landlords.

In some desirable parts of Manhattan, where unregulated rents have soared, many wealthy "protected tenants" pay less than a quarter of the market rate. Such celebrities as the pop star Carly Simon, for example, and the broadcaster Alistair Cooke, are "protected".

While defenders of controls say that they secure affordable housing for people in a market where demand outstrips supply, there is no doubt that price regulation has had exactly the opposite effect, creating a full-blown housing crisis in New York.

By suppressing the return landlords get on their investments, control has discouraged the building of new homes. Affordable housing has become so scarce that New Yorkers, and those moving to the city from outside, must exercise the same ingenuity in finding an apartment as Muscovites once did to find meat to eat.

Desert force has to stay

Prince Sultan Airbase, Sami Al-Rasbi, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, the US Defence Secretary, told American troops yesterday that they had to stay indefinitely at this isolated desert base because US economic interest demanded it.

With temperatures soaring to 47°C (117°F), Mr Cohen toured the base flight lines and tent towns and commiserated with fighter pilots and ground crews enforcing a "no-fly zone", in existence almost six years, over southern Iraq. Mr Cohen told troops that Washington would not abandon its commitment to the region. AFP

McVeigh jury defends death sentence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing continued to resonate throughout America yesterday as the jurors who convicted and then sentenced Timothy McVeigh to death talked for the first time about the former Gulf War veteran who murdered 168 adults and children.

Banned from speaking either during his trial or the second phase which ended on Friday with the death sentence, the seven men and five women said they had found it harder to convict the Oklahoma bomber than to decide that he should die.

Jim Osgood, the foreman who became known during the process as the QJ juror for his immaculate suits and ties, said that the prosecution case had been compelling, but the jury had cried for 90

minutes before returning to court to pronounce McVeigh's guilt. "We didn't look at one piece of evidence or one particular witness, we looked at the whole package," Mr Osgood said.

Every member of the jury said they wished McVeigh could have taken the stand to answer the question of why he had planned the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah federal building on April 19, 1995. Almost all believed that he had not acted alone.

Most were surprised that Stephen Jones, his defence lawyer, appeared effectively to have admitted the guilt of his client during the sentencing phase. Mr Jones had said that although the act was demonic, McVeigh was no demon.

"It knocked me off my feet when he said that," David Gilger, another juror, said. "I do wish Timothy McVeigh had sat in the witness stand and given testimony

of some kind but it was his choice not to and I respect that."

Since he was sentenced to death — an execution by lethal injection which is scheduled to take place at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana — McVeigh's lawyers have faced a barrage of criticism for what seemed both an inadequate defence and the apparent admission of guilt.

There has been speculation that McVeigh, 29, was masterminding the defence team and had wanted to die rather than spend the rest of his life in prison. However, Chris Tritico, one of his lawyers, said that during the sentencing phase the defence had merely tried to act within the parameters of a guilty verdict.

He defended the decision not to allow McVeigh to testify because their client still faces a further 160 state murder charges in Oklahoma and speaking in court could

have affected his federal appeals. Mr Tritico countered the claims of both the public and the jury that the story-faced former soldier had faked himself by showing no signs of remorse during the case.

"Tim would have been criticised whichever way he reacted. If he had cried throughout the very emotional testimony it would have been an admission of guilt," Mr Tritico said. "We just let Tim be himself and that is how he is."

Tim was consulted in every aspect of the trial but all the final decisions were ours. Terry Nichols, 42, the co-defendant in the case who is to be tried later this year, faces the same 11 conspiracy and murder charges as his former army colleague. Experts believe that his alleged "lesser role" in the bombing could result in a sentence of life imprisonment rather than capital punishment.

Fascist salutes given at Mussolini funeral

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Fascist salute briefly returned to the streets of the Italian capital at the weekend when hundreds of diarch Blackshirts turned out to form an unofficial guard of honour at the funeral of Vittorio Mussolini, second son of the dictator Benito Mussolini.

Vittorio Mussolini, who died in a nursing home last week aged 81, was 29 when the Duce was shot by partisans and strung up by the heels in a square in Milan in 1945. A lieutenant in the Italian Air Force, Vittorio played a role in his father's final puppet government in northern Italy in the last days of the war and remained loyal

to the dictator's memory. After the war, he spent a period of exile in Argentina and on his return to Italy worked in the film industry.

On Saturday, ten air force officers attended his funeral at the Church of San Roberto Bellarmino in Rome to form a guard of honour. But they were outnumbered by extremist neo-Fascists from splinter groups belonging to the Italian ultra-Right.

Vittorio's widow, Monica, was consoled by Romano Mussolini, the only son of the Duce still alive, and Romano's daughter, Alessandra, a far-right Alleanza Nazionale MP for Naples.

Last evacuees flee Brazzaville

BY SAM KILEY AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

BULLETS flew over the heads of the last foreigners to flee Brazzaville under the protection of French Foreign Legionnaires as Congolese troops and militiamen fought for control of the city's international airport yesterday.

Mortar explosions and the crash of tank rounds shook windows in the airport control tower as the last 100 evacuees prepared to leave Congo Braz-

zaville to its civil war. The 1,200 French troops were expected to follow them.

About 3,000 people are estimated to have died in the capital since June 5 when President Lissouba sent troops to disarm the Cobra militia of Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the former President.

The country was scheduled to hold a general election on July 27 but, with most of the capital burning or shattered by heavy fighting, democracy appears a distant dream. Wit-

nesses said that bodies littered the once-elegant boulevards.

President Lissouba said he wanted a French-led peace-keeping force to intervene but officials in Paris ruled out any further commitment to the country once the evacuation had been completed.

Mediators say President Bongo of Gabon will host peace talks in his capital, Libreville, today after the failure of Muhammad Sahnoun, the United Nations special envoy, to prevent fighting.

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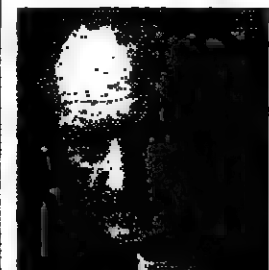
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LEGACY OF TERROR CONTINUES



EVIL BOMBER Sam Cayhall destroyed two families that 'fateful day 30 years ago; his victims' and his own. His son committed suicide 15 years ago, his daughter has not spoken to him since his imprisonment and now his grandson and defence attorney, Adam Hall is fighting a career-wrecking, no win appeal to stop Cayhall's impending execution.

THE CHAMBER 12

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Of mice and men

Scientists who introduced human genes into a mouse found some surprising medical benefits, says Anjana Ahuja

There may not be much to link Greek mythology and the painstaking work of the genetics laboratory. But this month scientists in Japan revealed that they had created their own chimera. They successfully inserted a lengthy chunk of a human chromosome, containing hundreds, possibly thousands, of human genes, into mouse cells.

The transgenic beast which resulted from this unusual union is not quite half-man, half-mouse, but has human genes helping to control vital organs. These genes help to regulate immune function in the thyroid, assist in the development of heart muscle and control liver functions. In past experiments to put human genes into mice, the genes have often lain dormant. In this case, they are working exactly where they should be working.

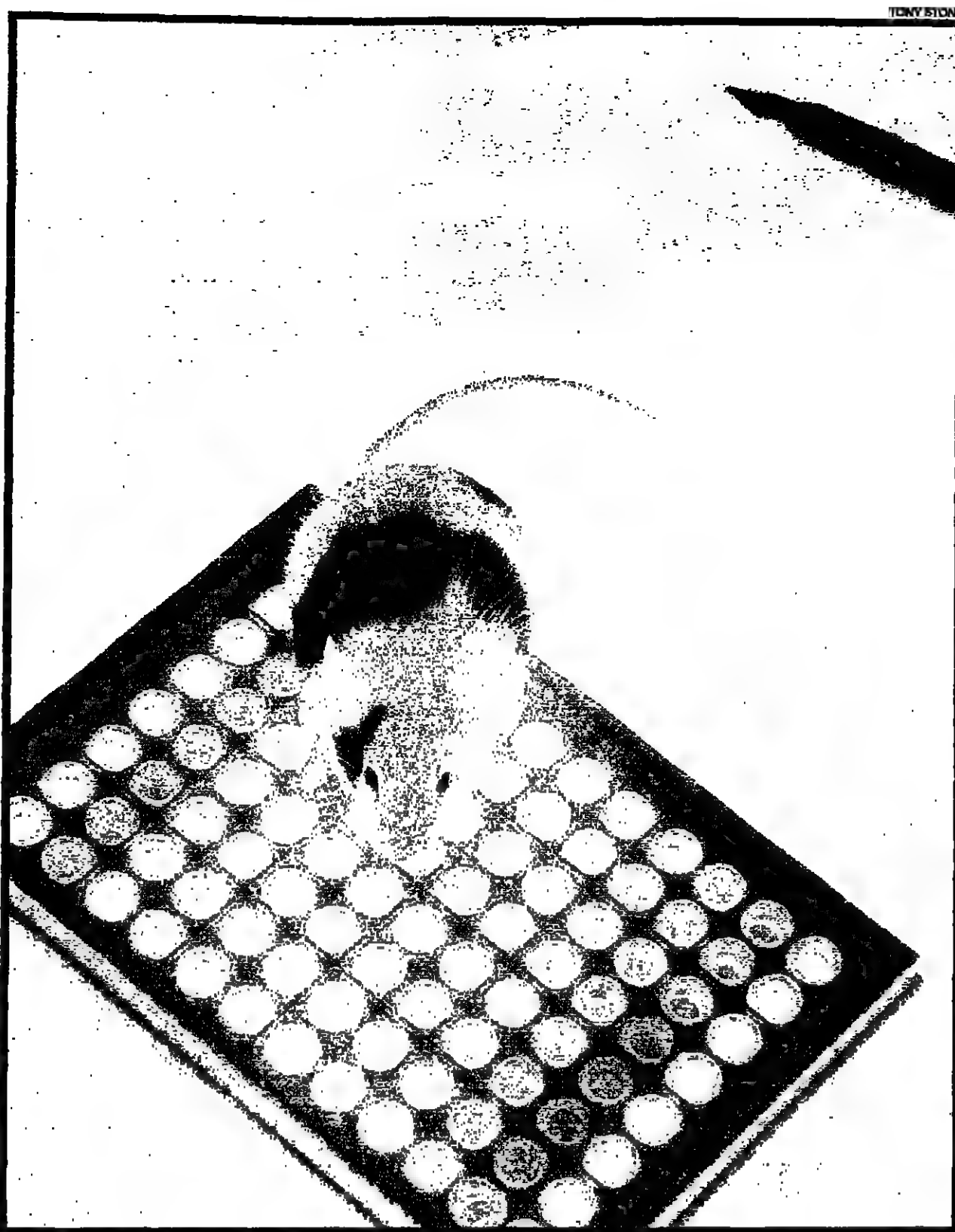
The work, carried out by Isao Ishida and colleagues at the Kirin Brewing Company in Yokohama, Japan (where breweries often invest in biotechnology), and collaborators at Tottori University and Kitasato University School of Science, was published this month in *Nature Genetics*.

It has rightly been hailed a landmark achievement. Its long-term applications are already exciting observers — hybrid animals could be used to produce human antibodies to protect against such diseases as cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.

What has impressed observers most is the scale of the experiment. The researchers transferred 50 times the amount of genetic material thought possible — a notable technical feat.

In previous experiments to ferry chromosomes across species, there was little problem shifting genes to a new host. However, the "instruction manuals" that told the genes where to operate were too far down the chromosomal string. As a result, the transplanted genes did not function normally. In this case, the whole package was relocated perfectly.

The scientists decided to work with just three of the full repertoire of 46 human chromosomes. They chose numbers two, 14 and 22, which possess clusters of genes involved in regulating immunity in various organs. The researchers took human skin cells and attached a protective gene to the chromosomes. The gene would later provide protection against an antibiotic, which would be used selectively to kill off the other 43 unwanted chromosomes. The skin cells were inserted into special mouse cells. The mouse cells broke into fragments, with each fragment clinging on to one of the chromosomes. These frag-



Hybrid animals could be used to produce human antibodies to protect against cancer and rheumatoid arthritis

ments were then blended with embryonic mouse cells.

These embryonic cells were then dosed with an antibiotic, which killed off all the chromosomes except those with the protective gene (ie, two, 14 and 22). The surviving fragments were implanted in the womb of female mice.

The hybrid embryos developed just like normal embryos. Six offspring were analysed; four seemed normal but two males were born sterile with shrunken testicles. The reason for the aberrations lies in the fact that mice have 40 chromosomes and human beings 46. In the sterile animals, the transferred human chromosome knocked out the animal's Y chromosome, responsible for producing male characteristics.

In the unaffected chimeras, the human chromosome simply became the 41st mouse chromosome.

To find out whether these hybrid creatures had adopted the human genes into their own make-up, researchers injected them with foreign proteins (antigens). The animals

responded by releasing a mixture of human and mouse antibodies which destroyed the intruder.

There were more surprises to come. The researchers went on to breed the chimeras themselves; they witnessed human chromosome two being passed down through four generations.

During its passage, the inherited chromosome remained intact and operated normally, showing that genetic material can become stable in an "alien" host.

Dr Sohaila Rastan, director of comparative genetics at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, who has written an accompanying commentary in *Nature Genetics*, said the research could open up a new arena in genome research involving mice.

"It is a very important scientific achievement," says Dr Rastan. "The extra piece of genetic material didn't seem to interfere with normal development, so it shows that biologi-

cally, mice can make very good models for humans."

Perhaps the most dramatic benefit of the hybrids lies in the making of protective substances. Dr Rastan says the potential therapeutic uses in the development of human monoclonal antibodies is obvious. "For example, antibodies are used to resist against organ rejection and septicaemia, and these antibodies are usually made in mice. This can create problems, because a mouse protein is being put in a human host. However, this technology can produce completely human, and therefore harmless, proteins."

Dr Rastan is also quick to point out that the research does not raise the spectre of strange, hybrid animals. "There is likely to be a limit on how much human genetic material can be transferred to mice," says Dr Rastan. "Even if lots of human genes are put into mice, they will always be expressed in a mouse-like way."

Professor Huntington Willard, a genetics expert at Case Western Reserve University,

Cleveland, Ohio, says that the work has given researchers a new tool for studying human chromosomal disorders such as Down's syndrome, which results from the acquisition of an extra, 47th chromosome.

Professor Willard says: "It is a very important and surprising step. The chunks of human DNA are enormous, and most geneticists would have predicted that the genes would either be unstable or cause major disorders. From what has been published this month, it seems that neither scenario has happened."

"Coming hot on the heels of cloning and artificial chromosomes, it just shows how the pace is quickening."

Eye hopes ☐ T rex poser ☐ Far-flung fish

New light on sight



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

THREE of the commonest causes of blindness have a common feature: the abnormal growth of blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive region at the back of the eye. The new vessels are inclined to leak, blocking light and causing scarring.

The process occurs in diabetic retinopathy, the form of blindness that often accompanies diabetes, in some premature babies, and in the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly, macular degeneration. While these three conditions all have different origins, the final stage in each one is blood vessel proliferation. Now researchers from Harvard Medical School, Ohio University and Merck Research Laboratories have produced evidence that the process can be slowed by blocking the action of growth hormone produced by the pituitary gland which stimulates normal body growth and development. The idea is not especially new. As long as 45 years ago, they report in *Science*, the role of the pituitary was suspected when a patient with diabetes who was going blind recovered his sight after his pituitary gland was destroyed by a failure of blood supply. For some time after that, many patients were treated by surgically reducing the size of their pituitary glands, and this did appear to reduce the incidence of blindness.

The evidence was that some pituitary factor was involved, but whether it was growth hormone or something else was not clear. The US team, led by Dr Lois Smith, Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston's Children's Hospital, investigated this in two ways. They used both normal mice and mice genetically engineered at Ohio University so that they produce a form of growth hormone that blocks growth rather than encouraging it.

They put the mice in a high-oxygen environment, stimulating the conditions that are used for premature babies. The high

levels of oxygen stop the growth of blood vessels in the eye — and when returned to normal conditions the retinas are oxygen-starved and start producing new blood vessels to compensate.

They found that both the gene-modified mice and normal mice treated with a drug to inhibit growth hormone showed reduced blood vessel proliferation. "We counted the numbers of abnormal blood vessels in the retina, and there was a significant reduction in the transgenic mice as well as in normal mice treated with a drug that inhibits growth hormone release," Dr Smith says. "We also saw more development of normal blood vessels in the retinas of the transgenic mice compared with the non-transgenic mice."

To check that the effects really came from suppressing growth hormone, they injected the drug-treated mice with mouse growth hormone and a related material called insulin-like growth factor (IGF-I), to see if this would reverse the effects of the drug. They found that growth factor was partially effective, and IGF-I completely so. This demonstrates that these growth factors are implicated in the proliferation of the blood vessels, though they may not be the only mechanisms operating.

The effects were convincing enough to hold out hopes of successful treatment or prevention of these three causes of blindness. The drug, codenamed MK678 and developed by Merck Laboratories, reduced new blood vessel production by between 30 and 44 per cent, which could be enough to delay or eliminate blindness in many cases.

The effect is about the same as that shown in trials of existing treatments which use lasers or extreme cold to destroy the affected part of the retina. The Ohio team, led by Dr John Kopchick, is also involved in drug development in conjunction with Sensus Drug Development Corporation, a company based in Austin, Texas.

Doubts over a dinosaur's blood



WITH timing that will have overjoyed the publicists of Steven Spielberg's new film, *The Lost World*, American researchers claim to have recovered traces of the blood protein haemoglobin from a *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone.

The claim, which appeared in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, has been greeted by other scientists with barely concealed scepticism.

The team, led by Dr Mary Schweitzer of the University of Montana, extracted the material from the bones of a *T rex* which lived about 65 million years ago. They subjected it to a barrage of tests, including ultraviolet, visible and Raman spectroscopy, nuclear magnetic resonance and electron spin resonance. All the tests show a molecule that looks like the core of haemoglobin, they insist. What is more, it appears to resemble bird haemoglobin, which is what you would expect if birds are descended from flesh-eating dinosaurs.

Others express doubts. Haemoglobin is too fragile to last long, and it is seldom found even in specimens 50,000 years old, never mind 65 million years, says Dr Noreen Tuross of the Smithsonian Institution. "The likelihood they have really found this is very small indeed," says Dr Matthew Collins of the University of Newcastle.

No plaice like home, it seems



PLAICE lead surprisingly adventurous lives, covering a far greater mileage than scientists believed. Tagging experiments by fishery scientists at Lowestoft have shown that one fish travelled more than 550 miles in 56 days, before being caught fairly close to where it started.

Dr Geoff Arnold, of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science at Lowestoft, says that he was amazed by the results of the experiments, in which the fish were tagged with small electronic sensors able to store data about depth and sea temperature. "It was known that they moved, but nobody had any idea how far," he says.

Dr Arnold and Dr Julian Metcalfe attached the tags to 303 female plaice between December 1993 and last February. So far, they report in *Nature*, 37 of the tags have been returned by commercial fishermen. These show that plaice leave the seabed at slack water, moving up into mid-water to swim with the tide. When it turns, they go back to the bottom before catching a ride on the next tide going the right way.

Results like these can be used, he says, to define quota areas to control overfishing and possibly also to define "closed areas" where fishing would be banned to give stocks a chance to recover.

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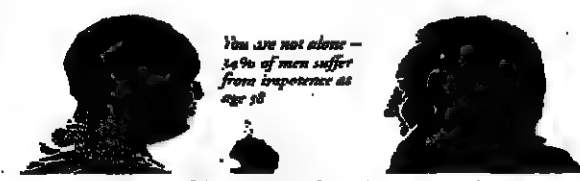
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What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

People who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in

treating this embarrassing condition *peacefully*. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1N 3PA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

WAS THERE A SECOND KILLER?



DAM HALL, grandson and attorney to racist bomber Sam Cayhall, again appealed for a stay of execution. In a powerful court room statement, he argued the case that the ten days remaining were insufficient for him to discover the identity of an alleged accomplice and details of a cover up.

THE CHAMBER

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The Secret of the Shipping Forecast



Peter Donaldson

AND NOW THE SHIPPING FORECAST, ISSUED BY THE MET. OFFICE AT 1305 ON FRIDAY 13 JUNE 1997

There are warnings of gales in Fair Isle and Faeroes. The general synopsis at 0700: Low Fair Isle 996 moving slowly northeast and filling 998 by 0700 tomorrow. Low Finisterre 1006 expected North Germany 1003 by same time. The area forecasts for the next 24 hours: Viking: Southeasterly veering southwesterly 5, decreasing 3 or 4. Rain or drizzle. Moderate with fog banks.

North Utsire South Utsire: South or southeast 3 or 4. Occasional rain. Moderate or poor.

Forties: Southeasterly veering westerly 3 or 4; increasing 5 or 6 in southwest later. rain at times. Moderate with fog banks. Cromarty: West veering northwest 4, increasing 6 or 7. Occasional rain. Moderate or good. Forth, Tyne: Variable becoming northwesterly 3, increasing 5 or 6. Rain at times. Moderate or poor becoming good.

Dogger: Southerly veering northwesterly 4 or 5. Showers. Moderate with fog patches becoming good.

Fisher, German Bight: Southerly veering westerly 3 or 4. Showers. Moderate or poor. Humber: Southwesterly veering northwesterly 4 or 5. Showers. Moderate or good. Thames, Dover, Wight: Southwesterly 4 or 5 decreasing 3. Showers. Moderate or good. Portland, Plymouth: Southwesterly veering northwesterly 3 or 4. Rain or showers. Moderate or good.

Biscay, Finisterre: Variable 3 or 4, becoming westerly for a time. Rain or showers. Moderate or good.

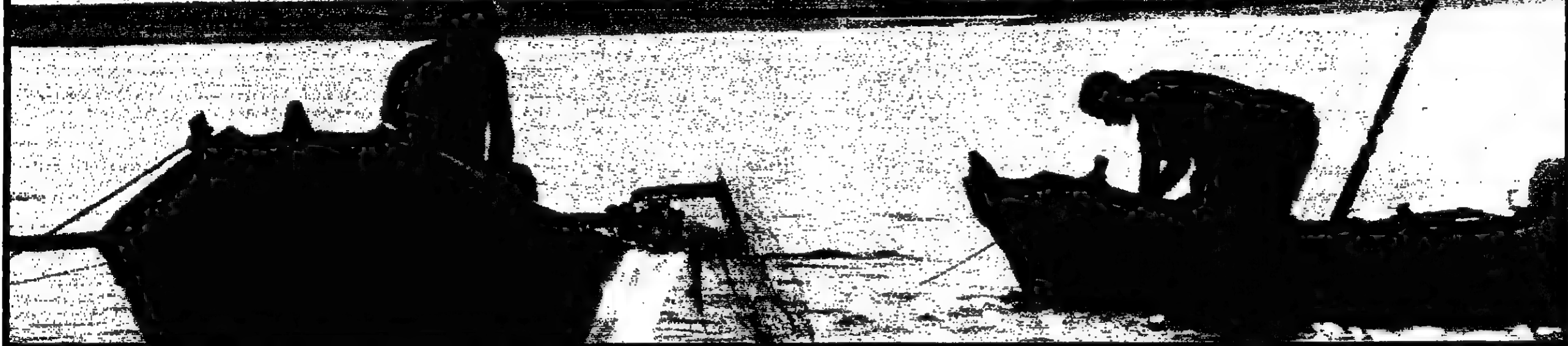
Sole: Northwesterly veering northwesterly 4 or 5, decreasing 3. Rain or showers. Mainly good. Lundy, Fastnet: Northwesterly 4 or 5. Rain at times. Moderate or good. Irish Sea: Northwesterly 4 or 5, increasing 6 for a time. Rain or drizzle. Moderate or good. Shannon, Rockall: Northerly 4 or 5 becoming variable 3. Showers. Good.

Malin, Hebrides: North backing northwest 5 or 6, occasionally 7 at first. Rain then showers. Moderate or good.

Bailey: North backing northwest 4 or 5. Mainly fair. Good. Fair Isle: North backing northwest 5 to gale 8, but cyclonic 5 in east for a time. Occasional rain. Moderate or good, with fog patches in east. Faeroes, Southeast Iceland: North backing northwest 5 or 6, occasionally gale 8 in Faeroes. Showers. Mainly good.



Charlotte Green



Looking at the words printed above, how many of you are tempted to try to reproduce the authoritative, soothing tones of the BBC continuity announcers whose job it is to read the Shipping Forecast?

Broadcast four times a day, seven times a week, for the past 71 years, it is ostensibly a service provided by the BBC for mariners. But it is a testament to the power of this sonorous mantra that so many

Why is it that thousands of us don't switch off the radio when the Shipping Forecast comes on? Bill Frost reports on the broadcast that soothes a nation with its calm and measured tones

of us non-sailors are comforted, moved, or even turned on by it. Who can forget the famous *Not the Nine O'Clock News* sketch of a girl reading the Shipping Forecast and struggling to maintain her composure while her lover attempts seduction?

Viking, North Utsire, South Utsire, Forties, Cromarty, at sea or planning a voyage: this is life and death information," he says. "But there is more to the reassuring sound of Britain: calm, measured and dependable."

The names were chosen from charts in the age of sail. Captain Robert Fitzroy, first head of the Meteorological Office, is widely thought to have chosen many of them in 1860 from charts which were old even then.

For today's devotee, the best place to listen to the forecast — broadcast four times a day — is in bed ... with the blankets pulled high and the radio turned low; the promise of a gale at sea is as comforting as the rain on the window. Nature's terrifying power can be enjoyed in comfort as the prelude to a good night's sleep.

Sir Robin agrees: "If you were tucked up in bed, I can see that it would make you feel safe and lucky on a bad night at sea. It doesn't matter if you don't understand what 'easterly seven, perhaps gale eight later' means — the voice of the reader is soothing and evocative. You can see a seascape in your mind's eye."

Even to the dullest ear, there is indeed a soothing poetry in Bailey, Rockall and Shannon, in Forties, Dogger and Tyne. "People love the names of the sea areas," says a BBC spokeswoman. "They have the same appeal for landlubbers as *Farming Today* does for townies."

"Viking, North Utsire, South Utsire ... constant bling repetition has added to the allure of these sea areas for the lay listener. However, to the mariner, they are the equivalent of 'Bouddie Green, Amos Grove, and all stations to Cockfosters'."

Many of the sea areas, such as Dogger and Bailey, are named after sandbanks. Others were christened after river mouths: Thames, Humber and Shannon. And some are named after specific features such as islands or rocks: Lundy, Rockall, Faeroes, Wight and Fastnet.

Biscay and Finisterre — marked on old charts by angry cherubs puffing gales from their cheeks — can be the most stormy areas: the names, again dictated by geographical features — the Bay of Biscay and Cape Finisterre. Since it was first broadcast, the poetic roll-call has undergone a few minor adjustments.

Severn long ago became Lundy, and Channel was split into Plymouth and Portland.

Dogger was bigger; Heligoland has become German Bight. Not much happened off Norway until the oil rigs arrived, so, using the Norwegian word for "island", the Met Office created North and South Utsire.

While the "familiar" but obscure mantra lulls us off to sleep, those in peril on the sea can be batten down for a seriously bad night.

Imagine the prevailing conditions for southeast Iceland

north and is changing in a northeasterly direction. It is said to be "backing".

The scale was devised in 1806 by Francis Beaufort, then captain of HMS Woolwich and later to become an admiral. His system was based on how the sea looked, with one meaning light air, and 12 hurricane force.

Barometric pressure — "Bailey ... 1,004, falling" — is another key element in the Shipping Forecast equation. Mr Powell of the Met Office explains: "It is a measure in millibars of atmospheric pres-

announcers must have perfect timing too — to rush the forecast is to put lives at risk. Mr Donaldson, doyen of continuity announcers at Broadcasting House, says the forecast seems to have an almost mystical quality for shore-bound listeners.

"There is a mantra format which never alters. We always read the reports clockwise from the top of the shipping forecast areas map, and we always read at the same pace."

Gabbling is mortal sin, says Mr Donaldson. However, an even more heinous crime was committed by a former colleague long since banished from Broadcasting House.

"To enliven what he thought was rather a chore, this man decided to invent a gale-force 13 wind when, of course, as every seafarer knows, 12 is a hurricane. Anxious listeners lit up the switchboard — you don't make jokes when people's lives could be at stake."

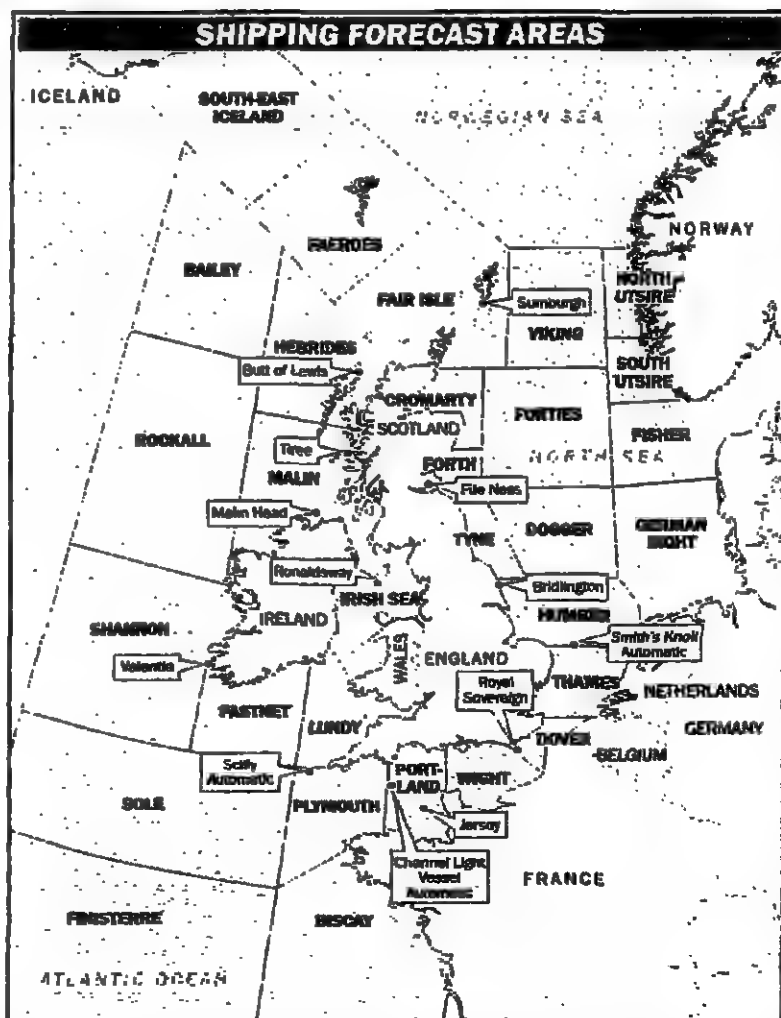
Peter Donaldson has long since ceased being surprised at the level of public fascination with the Shipping Forecast. As one of the amateur poets wrote, the broadcast summons up an epic seascape, "where terrifying elemental power hovers dark on the horizon". But the essence of poetry is not in the interpretation. It is in the hearing.

Terry Hand, former director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was asked on a BBC radio programme to nominate a selection of his favourite things. As a million other listeners might, he included the Shipping Forecast.

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston would agree. "This is an institution and this is a masterful compression of vital information into a couple of minutes. We at sea are dependent on the forecast, but every listener gains an enormous amount of pleasure: it is just so very British."

Like many other bedtime listeners, Julia Darling has been inspired by the forecast. She is perhaps the best of the amateur poets who regularly submit their verse to the BBC. While some draw their imagery from crashing waves and whistling winds, she takes a skittish view with touches of e.e. cummings.

"he was a viking in his tyne after tyne I said, don't dogger me just don't dogger me, but he fished me a single parent with no german bight i came to his humber and eventually thames to wards him dower and dower..."



detailed in a recent forecast: "Southwesterly six or seven, becoming gale nine later. Rain later. Moderate becoming poor." Unless you have experienced them at first hand, the task is almost impossible.

"You are talking about a very nasty night indeed," says Nathan Powell at the Meteorological Office headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire, where the forecasts are put together. "The weather could have been worse, but only just."

The Met Office daily receives requests from Shipping Forecast "fans" for information. A glossary of terms is sent by return post with a wipe-clean map of sea areas and coastal stations to plot the weather. "Visibility", for example is just that — observers look at points in the distance and make assessments. If a mountain 20 miles away can be seen clearly, visibility is 20 miles. If the wind is in the

sure above sea level. The higher the figure, the better the weather." Half a century after Beaufort, Captain Robert Fitzroy, later to become an admiral, pioneered telegraphic warnings for those in peril on the sea. By 1911, the North Atlantic was covered by a gale-warning system using Morse code.

The first Shipping Forecast was broadcast from Daventry. There were only 13 sea areas then compared with 32 today. This pattern was continued until 1949, with a break during the Second World War, when the information was considered too useful to the enemy. Readers are drawn from Radio 4's continuity department, including Peter Donaldson and Charlotte Green — voices chosen for their gravitas and clarity. The

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Tyson title with a \$22m punch

One of the ex-champ's mansions is for sale. Tunku Varadarajan reports from Connecticut

He has thighs as large as an elephant's, and an ego to match. He is utterly charming and he used to be Mike Tyson's personal bodyguard. Now a self-styled "realtor to the stars", Michael Farris is handling the sale of one of the Tyson homes. For \$22 million and not a cent less.

He flew out from Las Vegas to show me around the Tyson mansion — put on the market last month — at 46 Poplar Bars Road, Farmington, Connecticut. Lurking behind the veil of that demure address lies what Mr Farris describes as "one of the largest private residences under one roof for sale in America today".

He is irrepressible. He may have had his "philosophical differences" with Mr Tyson — "there were too many people hanging around him, taking advantage of him" — but they are still "great buddies". Years after leaving the boxer's employ, he is very loyal to his old boss, which is why, he thinks, Mr Tyson chose him to sell The Mansion. "What you behold is one of the seven wonders of the world of real estate," he says.

But let the facts speak. Mr Tyson's house is indeed wondrous: it has 20 bedrooms, six sitting rooms, five dining rooms, 24 bathrooms, 14 lavatories, seven "gourmet" kitchens, four conference rooms, an in-house cinema, a discotheque, an indoor Olympic size swimming pool, a rackets court, two billiards rooms, an indoor shooting range, a 1,500 sq ft gymnasium, five Jacuzzis, a glass lift to carry one from floor to floor, a one-acre pond with a 30ft-high fountain and "gazebo guesthouse", an eight-car garage, an NBA-regulation basketball court, 17 acres of landscaped lawn (with an artificial waterfall), six servants' quarters, four dog kennels, and a heated driveway.

The house, totally furnished, also has 101 phone extensions and 48 television sets. But no boxing ring.

Mr Farris was brooding as we drove to the house. He was worried about what I was going to write. One or two pieces on The Mansion had appeared in the American press. They were not flattering. Naturally, having shown the journalists around in good faith, he felt betrayed.

There had been suggestions, for example, that the house was overpriced. After all, Mr Tyson paid only \$3 million for it early last year, buying it from a bank which had re-



Mike Tyson takes his pet tiger for a walk in the grounds

ceived it as part-payment for debts owed by a renowned real-estate swindler who is now in prison.

"That's \$19 million profit," I exclaimed. "In just a year."

Mr Farris did not go on the back foot. On the contrary, "Mr Tyson deserves that price. He's had several serious inquiries, and an Arab sheikh has sent his men to look around. Mr Tyson has poured millions into the place. He has furnished every room with only the most expensive material. You should have seen it. It was in need of a total overhaul. And in any case, it was a steal at \$3 million."

So, if the place is so sensational, why is Mr Tyson selling? "Look, he's returning to the simple life. He's got too many homes and he just wants to settle down, to be fixed up somewhere. He has a home near Cleveland and his family really likes it there. But it pains him to sell this."

There had been whispers, also, that the house was not quite tasteful. "Tell me," I said, "how gaudy is it?"

"Absolutely not at all," Mr Farris replied, with a shake of his Mount Rushmore head. "You'll have a loftier opinion of Mr Tyson after seeing the

house, believe me. It's not gaudy. He has great taste. He likes the modern stuff as well as classical objects. You see, Mike's educated himself. He likes to read. He hardly had any schooling, but I guess you'd say his good taste was always inside him."

I was warming to Mr Farris. Selling The Mansion was clearly a labour of love.

The true labourer of love, however, was Dave Holloway. A powerful 57-year-old from North Carolina, he is The Mansion's caretaker. "I come with the house," he said, as he flung his doors open to us. He beamed at me, delighted that someone from a newspaper in London, England, was visiting. His handshake was like a bolt of lightning.

"One thing I like about the house," he was to tell me later, "is that everybody's got their own bathroom. You don't have to wait for no one."

We were standing in the foyer, which was three storeys high, with two curved staircases swirling upwards. Before us on the floor lay a dazzling zebra skin. Mr Farris said: "Mike loves African things, African art, motifs, objects." Mr Holloway agreed, sagely: "Yeah, Mike, he likes African things."

The marble however, ubiq-

uitous in its opulence, was clearly not African. Nor was the furniture, in a style that might best be described as Las Vegas vernacular. Mr Farris remarked: "As you can see, the home has been furnished with an eye for understated elegance."

I took refuge in a sudden flurry of note-taking. The place, frankly, was about as understated as a Tyson right hook.

But inelegant? Never. Over-seasoned, perhaps, but certainly not inelegant. The place had real panache. It was jazzy, funky, all those things.

The grand tour took four-and-a-half hours. As we moved from room to room — each with its relentless luxury, ankle-deep carpets, televisions the size of big suitcases and walk-in closets larger than my bedroom — I felt as punch-drunk as Frank Bruno after six rounds with Tyson.

You've got to admire the man. He grew up in reform schools and learnt how to live in the school of hard knocks (delivered, mostly, to other people, as a teenage delinquent in Brooklyn).

Now, he can afford a place like this, plus another sprawling address in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr Holloway said: "You know, Mike, he chose everything here himself. Right down to the fish in that pond outside." The pond, as I discovered, was packed with Japanese koi carp. They cost \$1,000 each and there must have been at least 100.

We entered the 37th of 27th master bedroom, with its 180-degree panoramic view of the waterfall, pond and rear grounds, cathedral ceiling, marble fireplace, four built-in overhead televisions, electronically operated window blinds, electronically controlled movie screen and combination safe for personal jewellery.

So this is where the great man reposed on his occasional visits. The bed was gigantic, and seemed to exude a certain menace. Mr Farris sat on it and bounced about, showing off its firmness. "Mike loved this room," he purred. "He would stand by the window, look out at the woods, and say 'Man, this is mine, all mine'. And he was right. Every brick and beam here is his, all his. The whole shebang belongs to Mike."

Now, for \$22 million, Mr Tyson's shebang could be yours.

Prospective buyers can reach Michael Farris at Century 21, Las Vegas. (Tel: 001-702 876 2700)



The hallway is three storeys high with two staircases and reflects Tyson's love of African works of art



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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

Twigg steps into the supernatural for Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit* at Chichester

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Wagner from the fjords: the Norwegian *Ring* opens at the Norwich Theatre Royal

FIRST NIGHT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



POP

Still elegantly wasted: Michael Hutchence's INXS blast into Wembley Arena

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



VISUAL ART

Rhapsodies in black: the Hayward Gallery celebrates the Harlem Renaissance

OPENS: Thursday
PREVIEW: Tomorrow

Last week Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, said that it would be more logical, within the next ten years, if the current 15 ITV companies were to come under the control of a single owner. If ITV were being set up today, he said, to compete with Channels 4 and 5, with BSkyB and a BBC more competitive than ever dreamt of when ITV was inaugurated, then its present structure would be considered "costly and ludicrous".

Despite the fact that I work for Gerry Robinson, I think that he is right. For whether ITV can wait anything like ten years is, in my view, very doubtful. The fissured ITV system divides up Britain not unlike the several warring kingdoms divided it in the early Dark Ages. Some say that the comparisons need not stop there.

But ITV has to pay almost £400 million a year to the Government for the right to be ITV — a crippling burden way past any justification and a penalty from which its direct competitors, Chan-

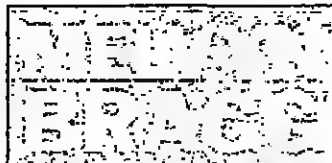
nels 4 and 5 and BSkyB and cable (and the BBC), are all excused. I would go in harder than Gerry Robinson and assert that if ITV is not allowed to trade more competitively (by the lifting of the ancient tax on airtime and therefore an equalisation of commercial factors with other channels) then Britain's single biggest channel investor in original British programming will be seriously eroded with consequences which could damage what at the moment promises to be the beginning of a most positive broadcasting leap forward in the next five years.

ITV appears to have no political constituency of concern like the BBC; nor has it the plucky little David-against-the-Goliath face of Channel 4; nor yet the radical ruthless realpolitik of BSkyB. ITV is merely button three. It could become an antiques roadshow all

of its own. It is the only channel unmodernised. It is now, when ITV is up there, when it is still a success, that is the best time to strike it new.

The answer, in my opinion, is undoubtedly one, or at the very most two, owners for the whole system. This would give the commercial sector in this country the clout in a world market which the pigny sizes of the commercial companies have hitherto failed to achieve. It would also enable ITV to regroup against a host of new television armies undreamt of in the philosophy of those who so carefully both set it up and pinned it down just over 40 years ago when there was only one competing channel. It is as if ITV is still being forced to travel in aircraft driven by propellers while the rest are moved on to jets.

If ITV could centralise its



strengths and continue to invest its tremendous cash commitment into British programmes, then there is no doubt that new energies would be released and just at a time when the ground seems so right for a

massive heave up the global ladder in broadcasting and screen businesses. And look what has happened quite recently with the centralising, the regrouping and the reforming of another old, tradition-bound institution solidified in the Fifties and unaltered to modern developments for over-long. New Labour could be a model for New ITV. How much would it cost to hire Alastair Campbell and Peter Mandelson?

There are three obvious objections to what I have suggested. The first is where will the much-loved regional programmes go — those services often rated way ahead of their BBC counterparts? I think they should increase and multiply. Where they exist efficiently enough run they prosper. But instead of a dozen or so we should have 50 or 60 up and down the land, each serving about half a million people

and allowed — as now — to slot into the ITV network at agreed times and agreed prices. This could transform local broadcasting and local communities.

The second objection is that a new centrally driven ITV would chuck out public service programmes — most obviously documentaries, arts and classic drama. Not so, I believe. ITV's greatest periods of rounded and comparative success have been when it has recognised the power and pushed the effectiveness of a mixed portfolio. ITV would be mad not to realise that it must lure in minorities as well as majorities.

But, thirdly, who would be that sole owner? It is likely that the gloves would be off. There are at least three hats already in the ring — Gerry Robinson himself, of

course, with Granada; Michael Green with Carlton; and Lord Hollick with Meridian. There would be tartan cries from the north and the red dragon breathing from the west and others seeing the opportunities in a United Kingdom of commercial broadcasting. It could be the mother of all franchise battles. On the other hand, with rules sensibly realigned to the almost completely new situation which has come about in the past two or three years, the amalgamations could proceed through agreements and mergers of those already committed to commercial television.

Either way the cohesion of ITV and the ITV system is a necessary and urgent step if British broadcasting's biggest single spender on domestic product is to play a mature part in what could be an exhilarating move up the league tables of global media, a move which is overdue partly because ITV has not been given the attention it merits. Let battle commence.

Time to drag ITV out of the Dark Ages

In sight of a double triumph

OPERA: Rodney Milnes sees the Aldeburgh Festival celebrate its 50th with a Turnage double bill

Even when the composer was alive, the Aldeburgh Festival was always more than just — just — Britten. He gave opportunities to many other composers. Henze, Lennox Berkeley, Malcolm Williamson, Thea Musgrave, and of course Britten — the premiere of *Punch and Judy* (1968) was one of the defining moments of both Aldeburgh and postwar musical life in Britain. The current artistic directors, Oliver Knussen and Stuart Bedford, are building on this noble tradition; in the 50th Festival there are interesting Britten exhumations, a new work from Alexander Goehr, and a focus on Michael Berkeley; and the double bill of Mark-Anthony Turnage premieres that launched the

festival on Friday could well prove to be as auspicious an event as the Britten nearly 30 years ago.

They were given at the Snape Maltings under the joint aegis of Aldeburgh and the ENO Contemporary Opera Studio, and could not have been a better advertisement for the latter in these troubled times: composer, librettists and artists had taken full advantage of the Studio's facilities for experiment, workshoping and revision in the light of practical experience; both pieces seemed "finished" in a way that not all new operas are and the actual standard of both stage and musical performance under the direction of Nicholas Kok with members of the ENO orchestra was impeccable.

The new directors have built on a noble tradition



Keel Watson (the Elder) and Thomas Randle (Nunez) in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *The Country of the Blind*, premiered at the Aldeburgh Festival

Turnage and the writer Jackie Kay nearly turned *Twice Through the Heart*, a series of poems as if by a woman imprisoned after fatally stabbing her violent husband, into an opera, complete

with narrator, chorus and a trial scene; in the event they wisely left it as an eminently stageable solo song-cycle, sung with quietly blazing intensity by Sally Burgess. Words and music say all there is to be said about an event made all the more stirring by its seeming so everyday, almost commonplace an event.

It was perhaps the subject-matter rather than the actual score of *Greek* (1989), Turnage's last work for the stage, that won him a reputation for musical violence; here it was the aching lyricism, the truly Brittenesque resourcefulness of instrumental colour drawn from a chamber orchestra of only 16, above

all the sense of compassion that were most immediately striking. The bleakness, the desolation were unerringly caught, the sense of an inescapable double trap, the prison cell and the violent, not loveless relationship that preceded it, with fortissimo thracks on bass-drum in the final song suggesting so much more than just the closing of the cell door. Not, on the surface, a cheerful work, but — as in the case of Janáček's tragedies — an indefinably inspiring one. The world will change.

The music for *The Country of the Blind* is busier; indeed this 45-minute opera moves forward with irresistible momentum, encouraged by the

short lines and strong rhythms of Clare Venables's libretto, drawn from the H.G. Wells short story. The parable of a sighted man entering a blind community, of both parties seeking to cope with the other, and their eventual parting with the mutual realisation that people must accept what they are, is not out of place in Aldeburgh, home of Britten-the-Outsider.

Apart from Turnage's grasp of dramatic shape and pace, about which he writes persuasively in the programme, it is again the lyricism that impresses most: the love duet in which the sighted man tries to explain the concept of light to

the blind girl (inevitably recalling Tchaikovsky's *Yolanta*) is extraordinarily luscious and — while I don't want to destroy Turnage's reputation — you really do come out humming the tune. The piece was quite brilliantly directed by ENO's Emma Jenkins on a spectacular set by Conor Murphy: this is perhaps not a show for performers, or audiences, with vertigo. Thomas Randle and Regina Nathan, and indeed the whole excellent cast, seized gratefully on Turnage's beautifully natural writing for voice. This double bill will be repeated at Aldeburgh on Sunday, and visits the Queen Elizabeth Hall on July 3 and 5.

Short on smiles

The Barbican is taking its Ravel very seriously. So much so that, in *L'heure espagnole*, in the penultimate concert of the London Symphony Orchestra's *Through the Looking-Glass* series, neither a ticking clock, not a musical pun, nor even a dysfunctional cuckoo could raise a laugh, let alone a smile, from the reverential audience. Ravel, after all, thought of his "musical play in one act" as the first real comic opera in France. The humour, he insisted, lay in the music, and the LSO and André Previn did everything within their power to persuade us of the fact. Their *Rapsodie espagnole* and the introductory *Le tombeau de Couperin* had already set in motion their expertise in this music.

In order to furnish the imagination with the colourful absurdity of this opera's staging — its procession of clocks and lovers, its upstairs and its downstairs — a concert performance must work hard. David Wilson-Johnson, as the corpulent banker Don Inigo Gomez, certainly did. His first "Salut!" leapt out into the auditorium; he bustled with the bass strings, rhapsodised with the horns, and worked the words hard and fast.

He and John Mark Ainsley (as the poetic tenor Gonzalve) were ideally cast. Their double-act in the absurd denouement was a masterpiece of perfectly judged tone and register. The Canadian mezzo Kimberly Barber was a vivacious and idiomatic Concepcion. Ramiro the Muletier is not intended to be a laugh a minute, but Kurt Ollmann should not, perhaps, have taken his dullness at face value. Rather take a hint from Georges Gaudier's clockmaker Torquemada, whose sense of comic timing was everything one might expect.

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Keeping the Woolf from the door

Adrian Zuckerman on resolving a legal conflict of interest

The coming to power of the Labour Party has given enormous pleasure to the legal profession. Quite a few members of the Bar marked the occasion by raising a glass of champagne. Anyone who has followed the attempts to reform the administration of civil justice will not be surprised.

Since the 1980s the legal profession has felt threatened by successive Conservative Governments. Their worries started with the private initiative of a Labour MP, Austin Mitchell, who proposed in 1983 the abolition of the solicitors' monopoly over conveyancing. The proposal was greeted with widespread support, and legislation was introduced. A dramatic fall in the cost of buying or selling a house followed.

But conveyancing was not the only area of complaint. The cost of litigation in England is exorbitant. The risk of incurring ruinous costs can deter even a rich person from litigating, and taking a serious dispute to court is out of the question for ordinary citizens. Unless they are supported by legal aid, by a trade union or financed by motor insurance.

Realising that little could be achieved by process, the Conservative Government tried to improve access to justice by creating competition in the provision of services and proposed giving solicitors rights of audience in the superior courts. The Bar, feeling its monopoly threatened, resisted ferociously. As a result, the proposals were watered down: solicitors were given rights of audience in a way which discouraged them from taking up the opportunity.

Despite several Green Papers, White Papers, legislation and widespread public debate during the decade after the reform of conveyancing, little was achieved. The cost of litigation remained high — indeed, it increased. But the Government persisted in its efforts. In 1994, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, then Lord Chancellor, appointed Lord Woolf, now Master of the Rolls, to review the administration of civil justice and propose ways to reduce the cost of access to the courts.

Lord Woolf was emphatic in his diagnosis. Costs are high not because our procedures are particularly complex, but because clients and their lawyers have the freedom to complicate and protract litigation. No doubt lawyers act in the best interests of their clients. But they also have a strong economic interest of their own, since they are paid by the hour. The more protracted the litigation, the higher their fees. Lawyers would be inhuman if they were immune to this temptation.

Lord Woolf proposed two strategies. First, that simple disputes involving sums of up to £10,000 should be dealt with by a simplified, fast-track procedure, in which the costs that the winner could recover from the loser would be fixed. Since litigants would not be able to recover more than this sum,

they would be discouraged from agreeing to pay their lawyers more. And, if lawyers were to be paid a fixed fee, they would wish to speed up the process.

In all other cases, Lord Woolf proposed that judges should take control over litigation. The courts should determine the pace and intensity of litigation rather than leave this to the litigants and their lawyers.

As with previous initiatives, the legal profession objected vehemently. The support that Lord Woolf received from Lord Mackay only deepened their gloom. But the new Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is expected to be more sympathetic to lawyers' interests. The profession was particularly gratified to learn from him on June 6 that, while he believes in the need for reform, the emphasis should be on examining the cost-effectiveness of the Woolf proposals, rather than on the practices that deny justice to the ordinary citizen.

There are perfectly good reasons why Lord Irvine may be cautious about Lord Woolf's proposals. Judicial supervision of litigation demands greater judicial resources, which means more expense for the taxpayer. Yet there is no guarantee that supervision would bring down the cost of litigation — for the hourly pay system would continue to provide lawyers with incentives to protract matters. Indeed, it is quite possible that a new breed of managerial judges would be lulled by the prevailing legal culture into condoning expensive practices of dubious benefit, as judges have done for so long.

Moreover, Lord Woolf's proposal of some form of fixed-fee litigation is valuable, because lawyers working in this way have no incentive to draw out a case. At Lord Woolf's request, I suggested a system of incentives which was fair to both clients and lawyers.

At an early stage in the litigation, a judge would review the issues and set a budget within which the case would have to be fought. If the issues were complex, and the evidence extensive, the budget would be high. In straightforward cases, it would be low. Either way, both the clients and their lawyers would know how much the litigation would cost and could make an informed decision about its economic value.

Lord Woolf reported that this suggestion "occasioned a general outcry from the legal profession". But it is not against the interests of clients that the cost of litigation should be fixed in advance. If the new Lord Chancellor is concerned to promote the citizen's interests, he will doubtless consider some scheme along these lines. If he does so, the merit in the legal profession may well prove short-lived.

The author is a Fellow of University College, Oxford.

The success of one high school merely demonstrates how far education in the US is failing its students

The Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, in Washington DC, is a successful educational experiment in a city of many social disadvantages. The school was founded in 1981 to provide a rigorous academic education for 400 of the best students in Washington. It is highly selective; about 300 very bright students compete each year for 100 places. Its curriculum includes a year of compulsory Latin, as well as foreign languages and sciences. It has strict disciplinary standards; no truancy is tolerated, timekeeping is punctilious and so are the homework requirements.

The educational results have been outstanding. Banneker produces only about 3 per cent of the city's high school graduates, but they won three of the ten scholarships awarded by George Washington University this year, and four out of eight last year. All 80 students graduating this year have been accepted for college, gaining entry into some of America's most important universities, such as Yale and Stanford.

Banneker is the American equivalent of a grammar school: selective, academically disciplined, aiming to get the brightest pupils into the best universities. The Principal, Linette Adams, has been in charge of the school since it opened. She says the formula is simple: "Take bright, motivated students, place them in an intimate, nurturing environment, and wrap them in a challenging curriculum... we're just an old-fashioned back-to-basics school. Some would consider us too rigorous in some things, but we don't apologise for that." In Britain this would be regarded as an example of Conservative educational thinking.

On Friday, Hillary Rodham Clinton was the Commencement Day speaker. She praised the school as a powerful example of what can hap-

The lesson America will have to learn

pen when a school sets high expectations. As she was reported in *The Washington Post*, she went on to express the hope that "we could say about every high school in Washington what we can say about Banneker today".

The objective of raising standards is obviously right, but Banneker is a highly selective school. No doubt there could be one or two more Bannekers in Washington, but it is not possible for all Washington high schools to reach such lofty standards. They cannot all draw on the best and brightest students.

Banneker is a limited answer, successful at least for its own students, to the worst educational problems of modern America. The first problem is the urban deprivation of the inner cities, with their concentration of disadvantaged ethnic minorities in conditions of crime, drugs, broken families and welfare dependence.

Banneker's students have had to battle their way through this urban jungle. At the same Commencement Day ceremony, Mayor Marion Barry — himself a former convict — said to the graduates: "Many of the young people you went to kindergarten with are not graduating high school today." He congratulated them on having beaten the odds. Banneker has its fair share of students whose mothers are on drugs, or dead of an overdose, and whose fathers are in jail, or missing altogether.

That is one problem; the other is the collapse of standards in American secondary education. American children perform reasonably well in junior school — the problem comes later. One often reads horror stories about standards in British schools, but perhaps nothing as depressing as this. A recent article by Maggie Gallagher, "Government studies reveal that half of our 17-year-olds are unable to calculate the area of a rectangle; just 47 per cent could tell you how to express 9/100 as a

percentage. Only 20 per cent could write a simple one-paragraph letter applying for a job. A National Geographic Society survey revealed that less than half of young adults in America can locate the state of New York on a map... a third of college freshmen require remedial courses in reading, writing or maths." These standards are certainly far below the norms when my mother graduated from an American high school in 1909, or when she was teaching in a New York City high school, on the edge of Harlem, in 1913. Her students were learning elocution

and Shakespeare, and enjoying it.

The First Lady made her visit to Banneker on Friday. Bill Clinton was speaking at the University of California in San Diego on Saturday. His main theme was the future of race relations in America — San Diego is a mixed-race community, 23 per cent Hispanic, 9 per cent Asian and 6 per cent Afro-American. The 62 per cent of the population which is European-American is expected to fall below 60 per cent in the next generation. San Diego is an example of the growing Hispanicisation of the South and West of the United States, which is a cultural and political challenge to the declining white majority.

Again, education is at the heart of the social problem. David S. Broder, who is reporting the President's visit for *The Washington Post*, writes: "Last November, police were called in to control a clash involving 300 black and Latino students at San Diego High School. In September, police arrested a dozen members of a Vietnamese youth gang, charged with robbing, terrorising and sexually abusing residents in a five-month crime spree... despite many targeted programmes, the San Diego school district said test scores for African Americans and Latinos continue to lag badly behind those for white and Asian Americans."

Someday, quite soon, San Diego will be predominantly an Hispanic district; an American businessman who recently passed through San

Diego airport told me he felt he might have been in Mexico City. Yet the Hispanic community has a high proportion of young people who have either dropped out of high school, or graduated without learning the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic.

A society with ever-rising standards of technology is failing to educate about half its high school students to the minimum level which the new technology requires. This under-educated half includes a high proportion of Afro-Americans, Latino-Americans and welfare-dependent Americans from the big cities. If at the age of 17 you do not know what 9/100 is when it is expressed as a percentage, and cannot write a one-paragraph job application, you cannot expect to share in the new opportunities of the information age.

It is not surprising that the Benjamin Banneker Academic High School should seem an attractive solution. Perhaps it is more unexpected that the grammar school should commend itself as a model to a liberal Democratic First Lady like Hillary Clinton. For 100 underprivileged Washington students a year, Banneker is indeed an almost miraculous escape. But it still leaves the big problem unresolved. How does the United States restore decent educational standards for the average high school student?

Eight years ago the American high schools were among the best in the world, along with the grammar schools of England, and the Scottish, German and the French school systems. How can the standards of the pioneer period in America be recovered, not just for the brightest 3 per cent, but for the great majority of students? That is a question on which the future of the United States in the next century depends.

Who will make a Tory First XI?

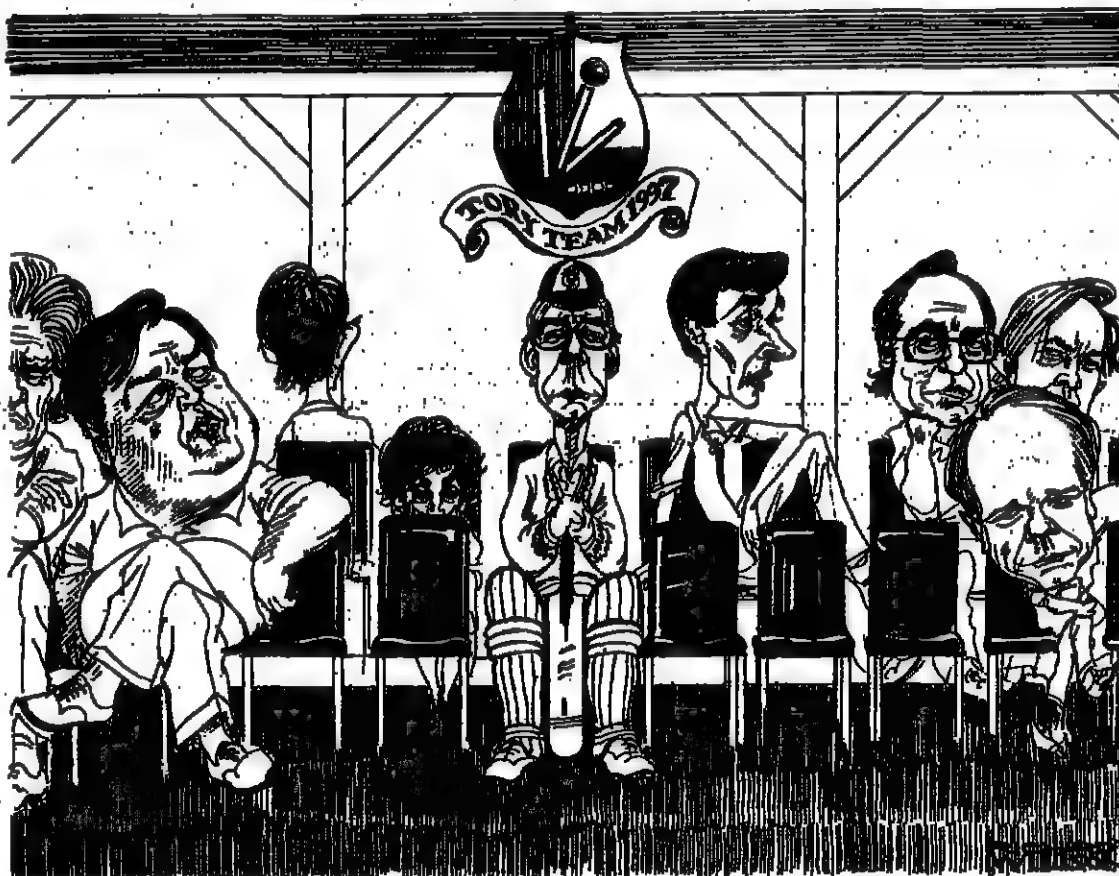
Peter Riddell on the problems facing the Conservative selectors

Whoever becomes Conservative leader this week will need to be robust and resilient in the face of frustration and division. He will have to have all the qualities recommended in *It*, by Kipling, Margaret Thatcher's favourite poet — notably on keeping your head — though he is likely to meet more often in the short term with disaster than that other impostor, triumph. The next few years, and possibly longer, are likely to be pretty miserable.

The leadership election itself is likely to resolve little. It never could, because the Tories' problem is not the identity of their leader. They were not routed because of John Major. He had his faults, but he was more victim than cause of his party's malaise. The Tories lost because they looked, and look, divided, extreme, directionless, remote and self-obsessed.

First, the Tory party has to understand why it lost. Labour took two defeats, and the election of Neil Kinnock in 1983, even to begin to recognise how far out of touch it had got, and, arguably, it was not until after its third defeat in 1987 that the party started to rebuild its credibility as a potential government. This process was still only halfway completed at the time of its 1992 defeat and it required Tony Blair's invention of "new" Labour to win back Middle Britain.

The Tories are still very early in that cycle. It is too early to say whether they are in the 1979-81 phase of self-destruction, or in the post-1983 period of rebuilding. Admittedly, the Tories have not suffered from an outburst of activist fanaticism. Their battered grass roots are too reduced



in number and too old for that. Rather, they are the ballast and the parliamentary party the less stable section.

The past six weeks of manoeuvring for the leadership have also in many ways disguised the real problems. This is partly because the surviving 164 MPs from the party's headquarters are the worst people to appreciate why the Tories have been wiped out in Scotland, Wales, all the big cities of the North and the Midlands and in large parts of the London suburbs.

Moreover, the rival candidates have mainly been uttering bland platitudes about a full-scale review of party organisation and the like. They have sought to paper over divisions. But this cannot last. The re-emergence of Europe over the past few days has exposed

the fragility of any talk of unity.

The opposition to Britain joining a single currency by John Redwood (for ever) and by William Hague (for the next ten years) would make it very hard for Kenneth Clarke and the pro-Europeanists to serve in a Shadow team. I discount speculation about a formal split or defections, but perhaps the odd maverick MP or peer. No one serious in the pro-European camp is planning that now. Nevertheless, a policy by a new leader that leaves a sizeable minority of the outside guarantees continued disunity.

It would be far better to follow the course recommended by Peter Lilley — as well as Mr Clarke — of leaving the single currency as an open

question, especially as it is unlikely to arise until near the end of the Parliament at the earliest.

The new leader can ill afford to lose experienced people such as Mr Clarke and his close allies. Of the 21 members of the Commons in the Major Cabinet, one retired, seven lost their seats, three (Major, Heseltine and Bottomley) have opted for the back benches, leaving just ten. Of these, there are questions now about the future of Mr Clarke, John Gummer and Douglas Hogg. That leaves the leadership contenders, plus Gillian Shepherd, Stephen Dorrell, Brian Mawhinney and Sir George Young. And there were not many ministers of state clearly deserving promotion to the Cabinet.

In the Hague camp, Michael Ancram and James Arbuthnot are obvious candidates for the Shadow

Cabinet, along with ex-ministers who have just returned to the Commons such as Francis Maude and John Maples. The new leader would be sensible to keep his front bench small — no more than 50 — and to rely on organised help from the back benches when necessary, as was successfully tried at Treasury Questions last Thursday.

The most important appointment may be the party chairman, given the need to reorganise the party and to create a national membership scheme. This alone could be worth 100,000 members, since, at present, a sizeable number, especially the many retired ones, move and do not join again in their new homes.

The new chairman should be able to devote all this time to organisation and not have to worry about the Commons, and also not be seen as a rival to the leader. This argues for either a peer on the Woolton or Hailsham precedents or a defeated former minister, such as Michael Forsyth.

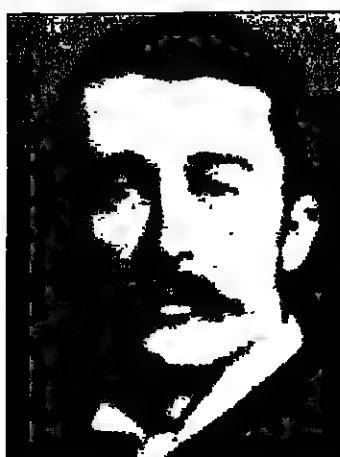
All this rebuilding is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for regaining power. That opportunity will arise only when the Government slips up and alienates its new supporters. Perhaps the harshest lesson for Tory MPs is that they no longer have the initiative. They can make a fuss, and can expose inconsistencies in the Government's approach. But what they think and say on policy is virtually irrelevant. That is why it is daft to take fixed positions now when so much may change.

For this and many other reasons — not least the support for him outside Westminster — Mr Clarke looks the best candidate to lead the Tories for the next few years. He would keep the party in the political mainstream.

Mr Hague has many qualities — and has more clear-cut views on policy than his right-wing critics allege. But he is largely untested for what are likely to be several gruelling years ahead. His best chance of becoming Prime Minister might be if he became Conservative leader in four or five years' time, rather than this week.

Son of Fred

STUDENTS of the work of Frederick Delius have long been divided over whether he fathered a son by a black woman in Florida. Now the issue looks likely to be settled by the violinist Tamsin Little, who next month presents a programme on BBC 2 called *Delius's Lost Son*, in which she proves as near as dammit that in the swampland of Florida, the composer of *Brigg Fair* was known as "Pa".



Delius: secret son?

Little's interest in Delius's love life was sparked when writing a dissertation on the composer in which she learnt that, when in Florida in 1894-95, Delius, then 22, had an affair with a black sweetheart called Chloe who later bore him a son. When Delius returned to Florida in 1897, he tried to find his lover and child but they had disappeared. Hence, according to Little, the feeling of nostalgia and aching unrequitedness in Delius's work, which is widely agreed to have matured after 1897.

When the Delius Society published Little's views, she came under fierce attack by Delius scholars in Florida. They called her a fantasist, saying she was making up things to fit her own interpretation of the music.

Fired by this, Little headed off to America in search of evidence of the Florida Deliuses. With the help of a genealogist, she found that there had been a Chloe Baker living near where Delius had lived and that she had given birth to a Frederick W. Baker. All that is left to prove is the final link between Frederick Baker and Frederick Delius. Little is optimistic, saying:



"I may know the answer by the transmission date of the programme."

Fast food

ONE of Britain's clutch of Michelin three-starred restaurants is on the move. Marco Pierre White's The Restaurant, which currently lodges at the Hyde Park Hotel in Knightsbridge, is said to be about to transfer to Le Meridien, a Forté hotel in Piccadilly.

The move is sure doubly to upset White's present lover at the Hyde Park Hotel, Mandarin Oriental. Not only have they lost their star chef but he is going to a hotel owned by Granada, the group which sold the Hyde Park to Mandarin Oriental only last November. White, a cook prone to shouting

and physical abuse in the name of fussy French cooking, is expected to bring some panache to a hotel which at present has all the charm of a Folkestone boarding house.

Party plan

THE DUCHESS of St Albans's annual summer party tonight is in danger of being sabotaged by American *parvenus* from Palm Beach, Florida. For the past 33



"I shouldn't take everything Prince Charles says about teachers so seriously, dear"

years, the Australian-born duchess, who recently separated from the duke, has hosted a party on the first Monday of Ascot for racegoers and canapés scavengers at her London home. But this year, before the duchess had even printed her invitations, a couple of aspiring socialites by the name of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Kirkbride had sent out their own to a rival bash on the same night. Embarrassingly for the duchess, their guest lists have a large overlap, and it is feared that many will opt for cocktails with the Kirkbrides, rather than drinks with the duchess. To remind guests that hers is the more established event, the titled Australian has added the handwritten inscription to all her invitations, "34th consecutive pre-Ascot party".

Marlene Gingrich, wife of Newt, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, recently chose Zoo Atlanta, in Georgia, as the place to celebrate her husband's 54th birthday last Saturday. Gingrich has been a little down of late as his star has waned dramatically since 1994, when he orchestrated the Republican's capture of Congress. Alongside him at the bash was Willie B, the zoo's prize gorilla, who was 39 on the same day. According to Mike Shields, head of the Friends of Newt Gingrich, the Speaker

"wanted to be a zoo-keeper when he was a kid". By becoming Speaker of the House, some might say he got his wish.

Dirty film

SWAMPY and his troglodytes have been awarded top marks for initiative by Granada Television. The environmental activists were given video cameras by the makers of a *World in Action* documentary on the Manchester airport runway protest in order to film their subterranean activities. But the eco-warriors had a problem. Just how were they going to get the footage past the Cheshire police on the barricades? Simple, hide it where no God-fearing mortal would dare to look — in their underwear.

The cassettes, however, were not as squalid as one would imagine. With extreme foresight, the producers bought the protesters a couple of pairs of Calvin Kleins each. The documentary, entitled *Through the Cuckoo*, after the name of the tunnel, will be screened on ITV tonight.

Princely sum

FOR shrewd investors in the art world, lithographs by the Prince of

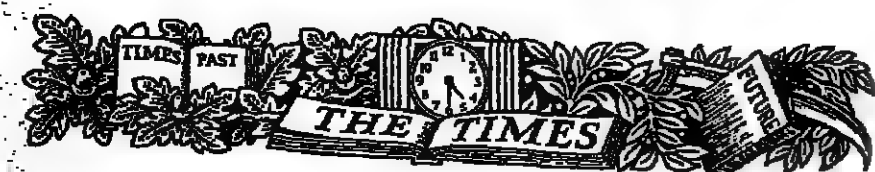
Wales are proving to be a wise buy. The latest of the Prince's works is a watercolour entitled *Double Haven Bay, Hong Kong from HMV Britannia* and will be issued in an edition of just 100 to coincide with the handover of the colony to China in two weeks' time. Any money raised (more than £2 million) has been collected since he started issuing lithographs goes to the Prince's chosen charities. Each one comes



The Royal bay watch

with a book of the Prince's watercolours introduced by his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The lithograph will cost just over £3,000 through the CCA galleries, though if previous artistic efforts by the Prince are anything to go by it can be expected to triple in value within the next three to four years.

P.H.S



NEW START FOR HOUSING

Labour's opportunity to change the streets where we live

When Gordon Brown rises next month to announce his first Budget, his decision on mortgage tax relief will be headline news. But in terms of British housing strategy, this is among the least important of the decisions that confront the new Government. For Britain is facing a "housing boom" of a different and more troubling kind to the one suggested by last month's steep rise in house prices. Within the next 20 years, the number of households will grow by 4.4 million — more than exist today in Greater London. This will not only create huge extra demand for housing, because of migration, it will be heaviest in the already congested southern counties of England such as Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire.

The cause is not demographic growth — Britain's population has been roughly stable since the 1960s — but a rapid shift in demographic patterns. By the time today's kindergarten children reach adulthood, a mere half of Britain's houses are likely to be occupied by the traditional family unit of parents and children; divorce and increasing longevity will between them generate an explosive growth in single occupancy, from a fifth to a third of the total.

In a free country, little can be done to change this trend. But the decisions taken now will make a considerable impact on the ways in which rising demand is met, and the effects on Britain's future environment. New households need not and should not always mean new houses, for example. The Budget is expected to confirm Labour's pledge to release the £5 billion of capital accumulated by local authorities from council house sales, and use it to increase public spending on housing. That money should be used not for new housing, but for the renovation and conversion of existing stock and neighbourhood improvement. The aim should be to improve privately rented stock as well as public housing and to concentrate on deprived areas, because they are the least likely to attract private developers. In addition, the Government should build on John Gummer's wise decision, just before leaving office, to ease restrictions on converting office buildings into flats.

The environmental argument against

such a policy is that old housing tends to be energy-inefficient. In Britain, where half of all dwellings were built before 1945, household energy consumption is twice that of Switzerland's. But since 90 per cent of these houses will still be in use in 2020, upgrading them makes obvious sense. And in a country as densely populated as Britain, large-scale building of new houses has potentially devastating environmental costs.

These are particularly heavy because of the pronounced consumer preference for homes in "leafy areas": Britain's rural population increased by 7 per cent in the 1980s. However much stress is placed on renovation, many new houses will be built in the next two decades. Radical thinking is therefore required about the scale, the design, the density and the location of new housing. Kitemarks for new houses should be introduced, covering not only energy efficiency but the economical use of land, transport and water resources. Consumer preferences are too readily taken for granted. Developers should be encouraged to learn from cities such as Bremen, where neighbourhoods for people who do not want to own a car are heavily oversubscribed.

Britain has had more than enough ribbon development. If the countryside is to be adequately protected, demand needs to be nudged away from rural areas and greenfield sites. The existing target of building 50 per cent of new homes in inner cities or derelict "brownfield" sites should be raised, to 70 per cent. That is realistic only with a more determined effort to make Britain's towns and cities more attractive. But sticks can be used as well as carrots.

Some are fiscal. The Chancellor should listen carefully to the strong environmental case for VAT on new housing, and to Liberal Democrat ideas for a special tax on development of greenfield sites, which are currently cheaper to build on than reclaimed land. Others will involve a more integrated approach to planning that links housing decisions more closely to jobs and transport. Green lobbies too easily characterise the changing pattern of Britain's households as a threat. With the right mix of radical policies, it could become an opportunity.

ASIA ON-LINE

Singapore and Malaysia struggle for Silicon Valley supremacy

The challenge to Europe comes from the East. That much can be agreed at the Amsterdam summit. Despite exhortations from British Prime Ministers of both parties, most politicians and all trade unionists on the Continent continue to prefer protection to competition. Asia's economic threat is often characterised as that of inexpensive manufactured exports based on a cheap and frequently exploited labour force. For Europe to abandon its 50-year social security arrangements to match sweatshops in Shanghai would represent, in Lionel Jospin's words, "the end of civilisation".

Would that the world were so simple. Rapidly developing nations such as China may currently rely on mass-produced goods. But the real impetus in the near future will come instead from high technology. The extent of Asia's advantage can be seen in the quiet struggle between Singapore and Malaysia for "Silicon Valley" status. The investment concerned far exceeds any such effort in Europe. To borrow from Tony Blair, the EU must modernise or die.

Singapore is on schedule to complete its "Intelligent Island" programme in 2000. All 800,000 households and every business in the country will be connected to a high-speed interactive cable network — the largest of its kind in the world. This will initially allow nationwide access to cable television, Internet services and government offices. Shortly after that, a National Information Infrastructure will provide the whole city-state with interactive libraries, banking, shopping, civic services and video-conferencing. With a land area 500 times larger than its tiny neighbour, Malaysia cannot hope to match the Intelligent Island. However, its

alternative is equally ambitious. The "Multimedia Super-Corridor" is larger than Singapore. It runs from the Petronas Twin Towers — the largest building on the planet — to a new international airport. A fibre-optic network will connect every corporation. Electronic government, "smart schools", and tele-medicine will then follow.

None of this has happened by accident. Political will and substantial inducements to the private sector have combined to make it possible. Singapore's Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, has set personal charge of the project and run it as others would a war-effort. Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, has been no less forceful in his approach. He has taken a two-month sabbatical from all other duties solely to promote the Super-Corridor to companies in Europe and the United States. Both men have used cheap land, tax concessions and minimal regulations to attract interest. Despite their intense rivalry for ultimate supremacy, each nation should prosper for its efforts.

This is the real Asian challenge — high skills not low salaries — and Europe needs to appreciate it. The new Silicon Valleys, not the stereotype sweatshops, are its form. There are risks in selecting one specific aspect of new technology — as Singapore and Malaysia have done with cable networks — in this rapidly changing sector. The returns, economic and social, are still likely to prove immense. Where these two nations lead, others in the Far East will certainly follow. European leaders may choose to ignore or deplore these trends but they cannot change them. Neither can trade unions in France or elsewhere. We have seen the future: it lies online not on picket lines.

LEAVE THE CAR BEHIND

A thought at the start of Walk to School Week

Today is the beginning of National Walk to School Week, an offshoot of the Don't Choke Britain campaign. This campaign runs for the rest of June and is backed by 400 transport and environmental organisations and local authorities, as well as the Government. And it comes none too soon. Three times as many junior school children are driven to school in Britain as in Germany. There is another striking difference over time. In 1971, 87 per cent of British eight-year-olds took themselves to school without an adult. Now the figure is just 11 per cent.

One survey estimates that parental escorting duties take 900 million hours a year, costing up to £20 billion in lost earnings and congestion costs to other road users. School runs are calculated to make up a fifth of rush-hour traffic, and a quarter of them are of a mile or less. Since an engine is at its most noxious when cold, these short journeys add most to pollution. This can be at its worst at the school gate, affecting those who arrive on foot as well. The London Borough of Camden recently found that the carbon-monoxide level outside one of its primary schools rose at dropping-off time from 0.25 parts to million to 2.5 parts per million. Meanwhile one of the most common school

accessories is an inhaler. The rate of child asthma has doubled in 20 years.

Some of these car journeys are unavoidable. Increased school choice has allowed parents to send their children to schools that are farther away. There may be no public transport alternative. But there are many parents who are too lazy to walk to school, and too nervous to let their children go on their own. This is a great pity, and not just for other road users and those who have to breathe the air. Children learn from walking — how to negotiate traffic safely and how to deal tactfully but firmly with strangers. There is a sharp rise in road casualties when children reach secondary school age, suggesting that they have not assimilated road safety skills. Crossing roads with an adult is the best way to learn them.

Parents should ask themselves "Is my journey really necessary?" If it is, can it be carried out on foot or on public transport? If the car is the only possible mode, can the school run be shared? Can a bus be organised? What can be done to reduce the heavy loads that children are made to carry? It is time, as Frances Lawrence memorably said, to put an end to children being driven to school "like freight behind plate glass".

Weighing up Tory leadership choices

From Miss Ann Widdecombe, MP for Malden and the Weald (Conservative)

Sir, The real message coming from Ken Clarke's overwhelming victory last week in the poll of Conservative associations throughout Great Britain is that the party in the country wants the party in Parliament to stop destroying itself over the ideological battles of the past and to concentrate on selecting a convincing leader for the future.

It is not even Ken Clarke's views on Europe which the Right find hard to accept — after all, he opposes making any of the further concessions to Brussels which Blair is likely to agree to at Amsterdam — but his views solely on the single currency. Yet this is no longer an issue which warrants the high emotion it regularly causes. First, the Conservative Party is not in charge of the agenda and will not be for five years, by which time the European picture will be considerably different. Ken Clarke has always made it clear that he will never join a fudged EMU. We are therefore in danger of tearing ourselves apart over nothing.

As a "Euro-sceptic" I support Ken Clarke in the reality of the present situation. As a rightwinger I agree with the assessment of him that Margaret Thatcher made in her autobiography: "... he was tough in dealing with vested interests and Trade Unions, direct and persuasive in his exposition of Government policy". At Health and Education he put in place far-sighted and often unpopular reforms that are now really delivering results.

Undeniably he has the strength of presentation and personality we need if we are to confound Tony Blair.

The party is both its Right and its Left and if it becomes the exclusive preserve of one or the other then it ceases to be the Conservative Party. That is why my vote on Tuesday will be a tangible demonstration of that conviction.

Yours faithfully,
ANN WIDDECOMBE,
House of Commons.
June 15.

From Sir Fergus Montgomery and others

Sir, As Conservative MPs who retired from Parliament at the last election, we have seen a number of party leaders selected.

There has never been a more important time than now to make the right choice. The party must elect a new leader around whom the whole party can unite, who can bring in fresh ideas and new activists, and who can state our policies in a clear way which commands public support.

To achieve that, we believe the party must elect William Hague.

Yours faithfully,
FERGUS MONTGOMERY,
JACK ASPINWALL,
KENNETH CARLISLE,
JOHN HANNAM,
STEVE NORRIS,
WYN ROBERTS,
JAMES SPICER,
NEVILLE TROTTER,
6 Groby Place, Altrincham, Cheshire.
June 14.

From Mrs Julian Sandys

Sir, Integrity, once a proud British hallmark, now considered optional for a Conservative Party leader? First Mr Hague reneges on an agreement with Mr Howard (report, May 7). Then Messrs Howard and Lilley act despicably over an earlier agreement with Mr Redwood (report, June 11). Now this questionable trio have united in order to achieve the apparently desirable aim of keeping out either of the other two candidates in the interests of party unity.

Yet those other two candidates, Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood, are the only ones who have shown themselves to be completely straightforward in the debate since the recent election. Thankfully, they are still standing.

Though my own preference is for a right-wing candidate (in this case, Mr Redwood) I'd rather choose an honest leftwinger than be asked to trust anyone whose "word" is suspect before they even begin. I find the scheming of the trio distasteful, the "stop Clarke" campaign unworthy, and the judgment of Mr Redwood as "unelectable" no different to that given against Mrs Thatcher at a similar time in her life.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH SANDYS,
Charnwood,
Shuckfield, Godalming, Surrey.
June 13.

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

Sir, Why doesn't the Conservative Party wait for Chris Patten to come back from Hong Kong, find him a seat and then elect him as leader? He has all the qualities of leadership and he has not been sullied by the last few years of Tory government.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA MORGAN,
9 Winterstone Gardens,
Mill Hill, NW7.
June 12.

From Dr Erich Steiner

Sir, Offering drinks to potential voters (letters, June 11 and 12) is bribery.

Sincerely,
ERICH STEINER,
Primrose Cottage,
Mill Road, Exeter, Devon.
June 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9RN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The law and release of sex offenders

From the Chief Executive of Nacro

Sir, Police concerns about the threat posed by a paedophile released to the Merseyside area (report, June 9) illustrate an important gap in the law. The offender concerned has served a lengthy prison sentence for a sexual offence, but is not subject to compulsory post-release supervision.

This is because he was sentenced before the Criminal Justice Act 1991, when offenders who did not receive parole were released without supervision — and inevitably the most dangerous offenders are the least likely to get parole. While those sentenced since the 1991 Act receive post-release supervision, these periods are often relatively short.

Legislation is urgently needed to introduce extended supervision for sex offenders on release from prison. Post-release supervision can include conditions, for example requiring the offender to live in a specified place and to take part in a treatment programme. Breach of conditions or failure to co-operate with supervision can result in recall to custody.

The last Government's Crime (Sentences) Act contained provision for such extended supervision. However, the drafting of the legislation makes it impossible to implement this particular measure without simultaneously implementing sweeping and controversial provision which would severely restrict parole and early-release systems for all offenders.

A short Bill limited to the extended supervision of released sex offenders would receive all-party support and could reach the statute book in a matter of weeks.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN EDWARDS,
Chief Executive, Nacro
(National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders),
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
June 9.

From the General Secretary
of the Association of
Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, In the face of what increasingly appears to be a campaign to introduce

a policy of community notification on the whereabouts of sex offenders, a word of warning must be uttered. Neither community notification (or "Megan's Law", as it is sometimes known) nor a register of sex offenders can be the panacea that brings greater protection to our children.

Community notification is unproven in practice and flawed in concept, since the prescribed geographical boundaries may be unobserved by offenders. It will also actively militate against the properly managed supervision and monitoring of offenders who have been convicted of sex offences against children by driving them underground.

It is doubtful whether the sex-offenders register could ever become the protective shield that many believe it might be, although it may have some limited worth. Only a fraction of offenders are ever successfully detected, convicted or appropriately sentenced.

Those who eventually reach the register will be massively outweighed by those who appear as normal citizens to all but their terrified young victims. A register is a recipe for disappointment as it will never live up to the grand promises it is being sold on.

Real public protection requires several levels of action. Improved detection and prosecution to conviction have a huge and largely forgotten role in protecting children, while custodial sentences need to pivot on treatment and risk assessment.

At release — the stage that most worries the public — professional supervision is the only proven way to reduce re-offending, whilst still remaining alert to the risk of another crime being committed.

This process needs to be extended and endowed with the proper powers to ensure swift recall to prison when necessary.

Yours sincerely,
MARY HONEYBALL,
General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers of Probation,
212 Whitechapel Road, E1,
June 11.

University museums

From the Chairman of the
Museums & Galleries Commission

Sir, Over the past few weeks, the Museums & Galleries Commission and the North of England Museums Service have been in discussion with the University of Newcastle over the future of the Hutton Gallery (letter, June 5).

The MGC had urged the university to announce a period of grace in which alternative funding could actively be sought. We are naturally delighted that, through the prompt generosity of Dame Catherine Cookson (report, June 11), the immediate future of the gallery seems to have been secured.

This incident highlights not only the vital role that benefactors continue to play in the support of our heritage, but also the parlous state of many university museums. The Hutton is but one of a number of museums and collections of distinction currently facing severe financial pressures which, as the Hutton nearly demonstrated, can all too easily prove fatal.

I hope that the current Dearing review into the funding of higher education will articulate the case for university museums and thereby provide the Government with an opportunity to put their support on a proper footing at last. Ministers should work together to seize this opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JOLL,
Chairman,
Museums & Galleries Commission,
16 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
June 11.

Eclipse of Russia

From Mr J. Enock Powell

Sir, It is a long time since you published anything so far-sighted as the article by Lord Rees-Mogg on the absence of Russia from European affairs ("The Russian tiger is ready to roar", June 9).

Russia is Britain's natural ally and a strong Russia makes for a strong Britain; but we are separated from them by a tumultuous continent. I hope we have not been so far influenced by American opinion as to abandon the natural balance of power in Europe which France and Germany are trying to destroy.

Yours faithfully,
J. ENOCH POWELL,
33 South Eaton Place, SW1,
June 10.

Breaking up our antiquarian books

From the President of the
Antiquarian Booksellers' Association

Sir, Your front-page puff for Germaine Greer's article on Tuesday, "Books and barbarism", wrongly states that we tried to ban it. The article, which was commissioned for the catalogue for our Antiquarian Book Fair at Grosvenor House later this month, contained implied criticism of some of our members. I therefore rejected it as inappropriate for its purpose, but at no time did we try to "ban" it.

Dr Greer raises important but difficult issues. Books have been cut up for their leaves and plates for hundreds of years. In the 18th and 19th centuries, for example, there was a vogue for collecting title pages (a practice now thankfully defunct) and many medieval manuscripts were plundered for their illuminated initials, John Ruskin being a notable collector. As a result there are thousands of leaves and plates from early books on the market.

Today early manuscripts tend to stay together, as they have a higher value complete than broken up, and in the book trade, as in any other, we respond to the demand of customers. When the demand for the individual parts of leaves exceeds the sum for the whole then the economic temptation is to break them up. Many dealers resist this and try to sell something complete if they possibly can. Most booksellers would prefer that books stay complete and do in fact only break defective copies.

Today's increasing emphasis by scholars on the cultural history of the book is changing collecting patterns. In due course, I am sure, it will change attitudes to the market in leaves and plates. However, I believe that Dr Greer's suggestion of a provenance register for these items, while laudable in some ways, would result in an unworkable bureaucratic nightmare.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MILLER,
President,
Antiquarian Booksellers' Association,
Sackville House, 40 Piccadilly, W1,
June 10.

From Mr Roger Gaskell

Sir, The main reason why Germaine Greer's article was rejected by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association was that the ABA, despite its name, includes print sellers among its members. They are, however, in a minority.

I am in no doubt that the majority of members deplore the practice of breaking books for prints as much as Dr Greer. Most of us, I think, welcome her comments and do indeed have a responsible attitude to the historical artefacts of which we are temporary curators.

Perhaps the time has come to sever the traditional links between the book selling and print selling trade.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GASKELL,
(ABA committee member),
17 Ramsey Road,
Warboys, Cambridgeshire.
June 12.

From Mr Keith Langridge

Sir, I can only agree with what Dr Germaine Greer has to say about the destruction of good books.

I had a stall in Portobello Road for six years during the 1980s. There were numerous bookellers in the area, on stalls or in the arcades. It was general practice to destroy old books that were in need of repair and restoration because this was the easiest and most profitable way to earn a living. The value of the book for academic purposes did not enter the minds of these people.

Our heritage is systematically being denigrated by the few who want to make a fast buck.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH LANGRIDGE,
30a Warmborough Road, Oxford.
June 10.

Bad sport

From Mr Philip Prior

Sir, Magnus Linklater, in "Bowling the Scots a googly" (June 12), expresses his frustration at the reluctance of BBC Scotland to show the final overs of the Edgbaston Test. Dare I suggest that if England had been losing it might have been a very different matter.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP PRIOR,
135 Chalmers Street,
Dunfermline, Fife.
June 12.

Fitting send-off

From the Reverend David Ward

Sir, While I was visiting the parish priest of Barga, a tiny village in northern Italy two years ago, my host proposed to disperse Campari from his own coffin (article, June 4; letter, June 12). It was fitted with temporary shelves to carry bottles and glasses and it served, until the moment came for it to be put to its proper use, as a drinks cabinet.

Yours truly,
DAVID WARD,
Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham,
42 Struan Road, Perth, Tayside.
June 12.

Letters to the Editor should be sent to the Editor, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9RN. Telephone 0171-782 5000. Fax 0171-782 5001. E-mail: letters@the-times.co.uk

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The fax number for letters for publication is 0171-782 5046.

General correspondence by fax should go to: 0171-782 5988.

BULAT OKUDZHAVA

JACQUES CANETTI

EDWARD BISHOP

Appointments in the Forces

Nature notes

The spotted flycatcher

Crosswort is out on roadsides: the leaves are arranged in groups of four all the way up the stem, and the tiny yellow flowers grow among them. The tipped violet flowers of self-heal are growing low in the grass. Wild thyme exhales a sweet smell over the heaths: while thrift, or seapink, is abundant on the cliffs.

DJM

DEATH OF LORD KITCHENER

Efforts were made without success to lower some of the boats, one of which was being broken in half during the process and her occupants thrown overboard. The Captain called out to Kitchener to come up to the foremast, near where the Captain's cabin was hoisted; he was also heard to say that Lord Kitchener to get into the boat, no-one is able to say whether or not Kitchener got into the boat or not. He did anyone see any of the boats or the ship. Though the rafts were carrying large numbers of men got safely ashore, one case out of over 70 men on board.

ON THIS DAY

June 16, 1916

Leading Seaman Charles Walter Rogerson, one of the 12 survivors, says: I was the last of the survivors to see Lord Kitchener before leaving the ship.

Lord Kitchener went down with the ship. He did not leave her. The Captain was calling to Lord Kitchener to go to the

boat, but owing to the noise of the wind and the sea Lord Kitchener apparently could not hear him. When the explosion occurred Lord Kitchener walked calmly from the captain's cabin, went up the ladder and on to the quarter-deck. He did not seem in the least perturbed, but calmly waited the preparations for abandoning the ship. Owing to the rough weather no boats could be lowered; those that were got out were smashed up at once. The ship sank by the head, and when she did she turned a complete somersault forward, carrying down with her all the boats and those in them. When I sprang onto a raft he was still on the starboard side of the quarter-deck talking to his officers. I won't say he did not feel the strain of the perilous situation like the rest of us, but he gave no outward sign of nervousness. I got away on one of the rafts and we had a terrible five hours in the water. It was so rough that the sea beat down on us and many men were killed by the buffeting they received. Many others died from the fearful cold.

TODAY IN

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

IN THE COURT OF KING MICHAEL

A Bull market - but are Chicago about to lose their prize asset?
PAGE 31

TRIED AND TESTED

Why England are sticking with a winning team for Lord's
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County reports
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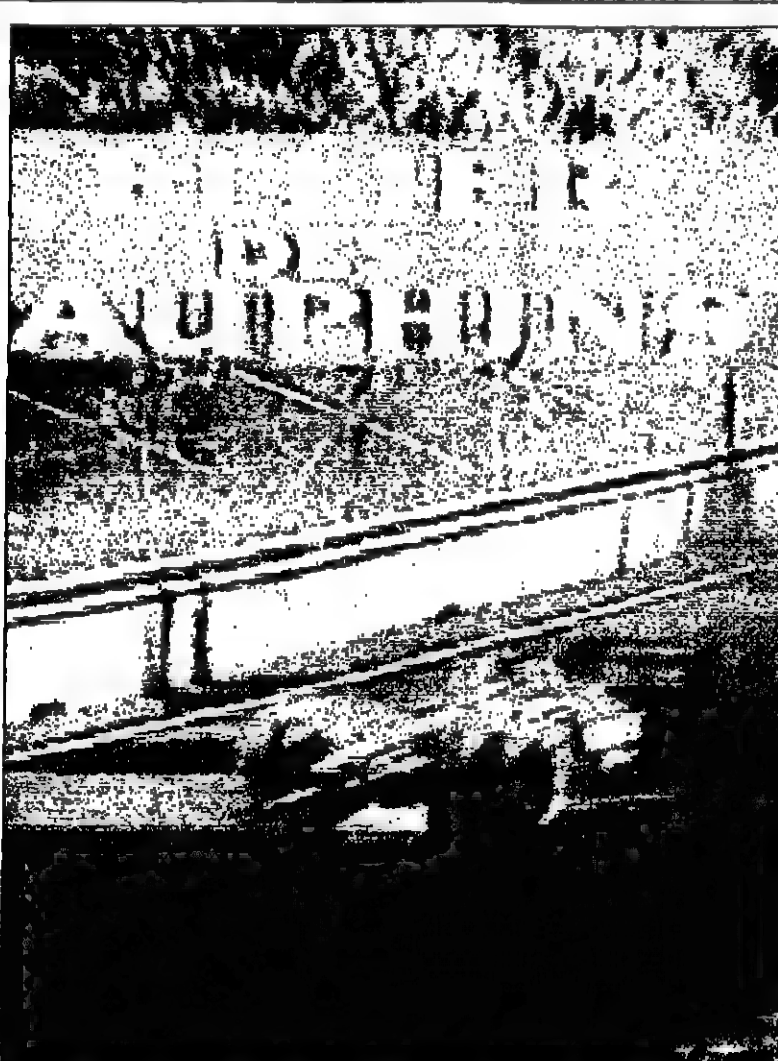
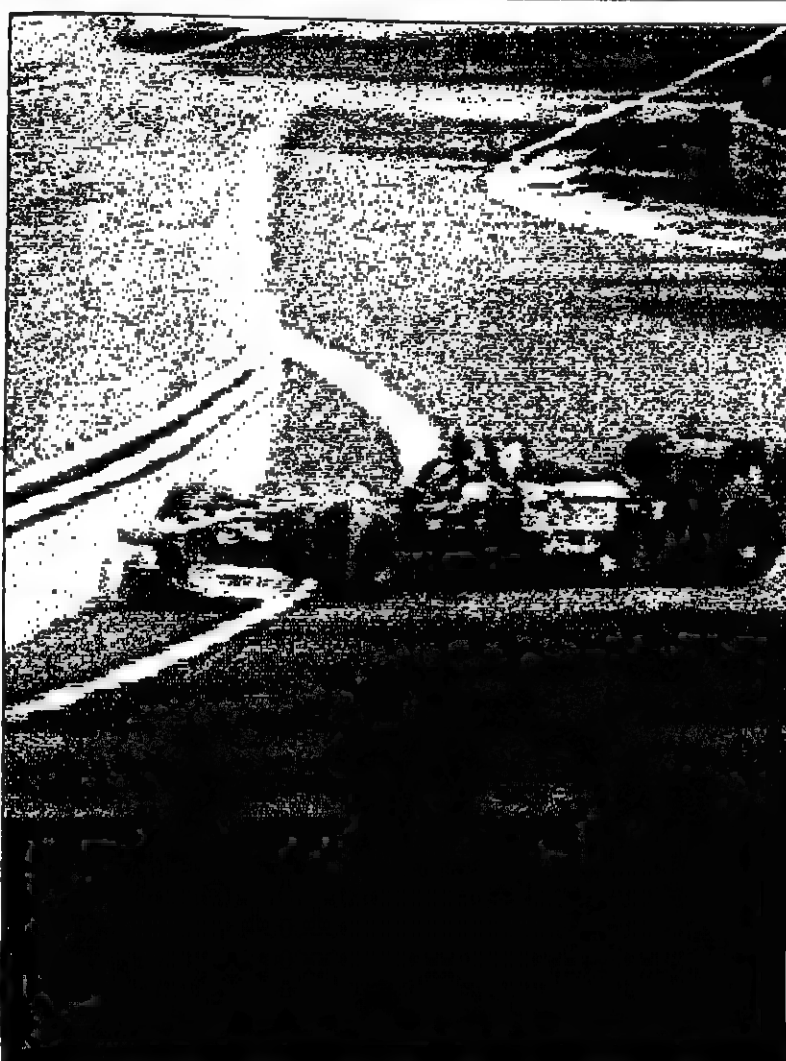
ROYAL SHOW

Smith's command performance in the Windsor triathlon
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 16 1997

CRASH HALTS CANADIAN GRAND PRIX AS TITLE LEAD CHANGES



Trail of destruction: Panis, travelling at 150mph, crashes into the wall, left, the impact sending his car spinning back on to the track, centre, before hurtling into a bank of tyres. He escaped with a broken leg

Schumacher survives amid chaos

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN MONTREAL

FORMULA One received a stark reminder of its inherent dangers yesterday, when a spectacular accident involving Olivier Panis cut short the Canadian Grand Prix here. Michael Schumacher's victory, the product of the fallibility of his principal rivals, was placed into appropriate perspective.

The sight of Panis being tended by doctors at the side of the track, after his Prost had sliced along a three-tier tyre wall at 150mph midway through lap No 52, ensured that Schumacher's seizure of the lead in the world drivers' championship from Jacques Villeneuve was of secondary importance.

Schumacher, like the nine other survivors of a race shaped by Villeneuve's momentary lack of concentration and the untimely misfortune of David Coulthard, was consumed by an immediate sense of concern for the stricken Frenchman, who was taken away in an ambulance after being hauled out of the wreckage of his car.

He remained grim-faced throughout the rituals of the podium, absent-mindedly lifting the winner's trophy to the heavens with one hand and

those on the podium, who suggested their achievements had been soured by circumstance.

Jean Alesi finished second, with Giancarlo Fisichella being less than a second behind when the race, which ran for 56 of its 69 anticipated laps, finished with the cars circulating behind the safety car.

An inconsolable Coulthard was seventh, having seen clutch failure in the pits rob him of a 31-second lap lead, and almost certain victory.

Villeneuve was similarly distraught. The crushing anticlimax created by his brief

appearance testified to the strength of North America's obsession with sporting dynasties. Families, particularly father-and-son combinations, are celebrated for their consistency of purpose and their perceived championing of traditional values. American Football lionises the Schulas, baseball reveres the Ripkens and motorsport has the Andrettis and the Villeneuves.

Jacques has been an omnipresent figure in Montreal, where the perversity of the recognition he receives is startling. He can wander the busiest streets unmolested, yet

his image is everywhere, with shop windows carrying everything from life-sized cardboard cut-outs to photographs of his formative years in Formula Atlantic.

His late father, Gilles, has long since passed into the mythology of motor racing. The circuit which bears his name, framed by the St Lawrence Seaway, staged his 1978 Canadian Grand Prix victory, one of six wins that preceded

his death at Zolder in practice for the 1982 Belgian Grand Prix.

The mixture of hope and history represented by the Villeneuve family was responsible for the first 100,000 capacity crowd in the 30 years since the Canadian Grand Prix was inaugurated.

Villeneuve was outwardly impassive. He acknowledged his girlfriend and retreated into a contemplative world

that concealed emotions he could not contain.

He had never sought to hide the intensity of his motivation. He regarded the race yesterday, in which he was watched for the first time in Formula One by his mother, Joan, as the most important of his season. Once Michael Schumacher compounded the blow of stealing pole position by surging into the lead at the first corner, he tried too hard.

He had completed only a solitary lap when he braked too late into the final chicane before the main straight, the fastest section of the track. He clipped a curb, was a passenger as his Williams slid into the wall and instinctively pounded the steering wheel in frustration.

When the magnitude of his mistake became clear, he climbed out of the stricken car and beat out a tattoo of self-

loathing with his fists on his helmet.

"I made a big mistake," he acknowledged. "The track was very slippery but I just misjudged the corner and I didn't expect to go sideways. Obviously, it's a huge disappointment." That, equally obviously, was shared by the crowd. A groan went up from the main grandstand, where spectators had barely had time to digest the details of the

first-bend incident in which Eddie Irvine's Ferrari spun into retirement after being struck by a back wing, detached from Mika Hakkinen's McLaren.

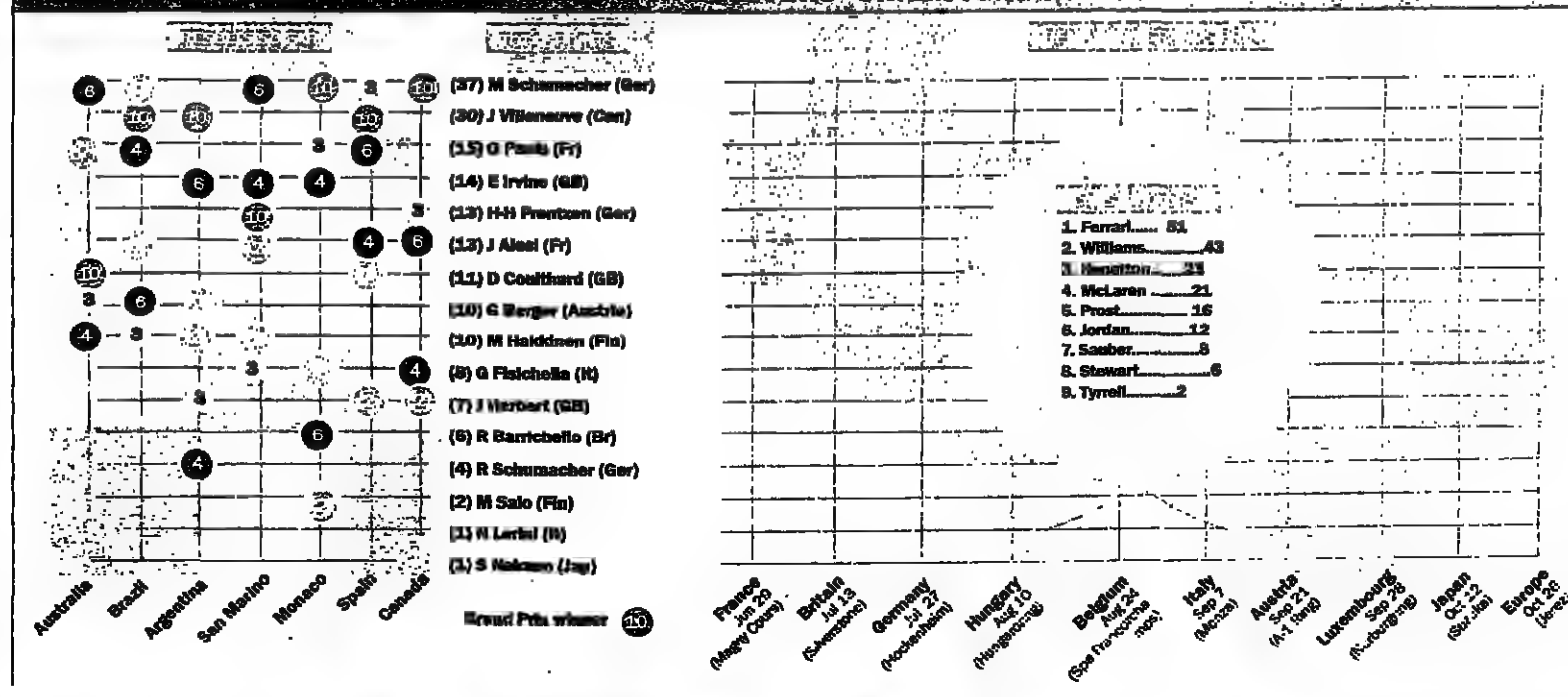
Jan Magnussen's Stewart also failed to survive the scramble, which contrasted with the serenity of Schumacher's progress. That was hardly matched by his younger brother, Ralf, who quickly succumbed to all-too-familiar impetuosity. He left his Jordan a smoking wreck at the start of lap 15, after a high-speed slide along the wall and into a tyre barrier at the first corner.

That was an uncanny augury for Panis's accident. The Frenchman, hit on the head by tyres as he ploughed down the wall, was fully conscious after the crash, and motioned a race official to help him out of the wreckage.

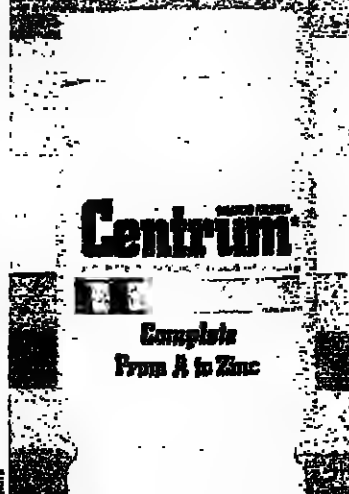
Coulthard was just emerging from the pits at the time. He had seized the lead from Schumacher, because he had planned one stop fewer, and looked set for his second victory of the season. That disappeared when his clutch failed, but the frustration was tempered by the bigger issue of safety. As he said: "I'm very disappointed, but my main concern is for Olivier. The most important thing is that he's OK."

RESULT (race stopped after 56 laps) 1. M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari), 2. J. Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault), 3. G. Fisichella (Ital, Benetton-Renault), 4. H. Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault), 5. J. Herbert (GB, Benetton-Renault), 6. S. Nakano (Jpn, Prost Mugen-Honda).

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Rusedski ensures that BBC makes net gains

One of the few pluses to stem from the BBC's slowly diminishing portfolio of sport is that the events that it still has receive the full red-carpet treatment. The corporation pretty much cleared its afternoon schedules for the Stella Artois tennis tournament from Queen's Club. Quite which schedules had been cleared, however, was never quite clear.

All week the action had swapped between BBC1 and BBC2, as the tennis negotiated its way round various immovable objects. Even the increasingly unflappable Sue Barker got confused. During a mid-week game shown on BBC2, she suddenly interrupted to remind us of the score and tell us that "our commentators are John Barrett and Bill Threlfall..." There was a confused pause — we knew that "... on

BBC1 in a few seconds' time."

Ah, we didn't know that. By Saturday, though, when the semi-finals provided the entirety of *Grandstand's* live sport and Geoff Boycott had given her someone to flirt with, Barker was composure itself. Not even the BBC could swap channels during a tie-break of the high quality that eventually separated Goran Ivanisevic from Greg Rusedski, but Barker brought the properly extended coverage to a close almost as soon as that final ace hit the back-netting.

Within seconds, however, she was back on BBC2 interviewing the heavily perspiring winner. I am all for the immediacy of these court-side interviews but, as the sweat dripped off Ivanisevic's nose, it seemed increasingly apparent that perhaps a BBC towel would be a good idea.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

In the commentary box for the brief and slightly underwhelming final yesterday were John Barrett, the BBC's chief tennis commentator, and Mark Cox, the expert summariser on form. On Saturday I thought he was outstanding as he and David Mercer commented on the wonderful match between Jonas Bjorkman and Mark Philippoussis.

Selecting his replays well (or having them well-chosen for him) he first explained in detail what it was that

Bjorkman was doing to allow him to return so well, and later showed what Philippoussis had done about it. It was a fine contribution, married just a little during the final yesterday when he surely seemed somewhat naive about what Ivanisevic was up to when he handed his racket to a ball-girl. Gamesmanship or was it really "a lovely moment". Close call.

By contrast, Barrett and Threlfall, his customary commentary partners, are in danger of growing stale, relying

on a sort of Maskell-like, old-school familiarity to get them through. During Rusedski v Ivanisevic, Threlfall favoured humour and sweeping statements over technical analysis. Left-handers should be banned because they are too difficult to play against... Ivanisevic will never win a grand-slam title because he enjoys life too much... Rusedski considers himself very British. It's enjoyable, knockabout stuff, but it's not analysis.

There is no doubt, however, about to whom the BBC owes the biggest vote of thanks for enhancing its coverage — Rusedski. Time and again he got them out of trouble and if his semi-final caused *Grandstand* to overrun a little that was only fair. At least he had ensured that the programme had an audience and a pretty enthralled one at that.

On Friday he even got the BBC out of an embarrassing hole, when one of those irritating news bulletins interrupted his quarter-final against Pat Rafter. As we were forced to listen to the story about luminous mice for the tenth time that day, Rafter — a set up — broke Rusedski's serve to lead 4-3 in the second. When we finally got back to Queen's, it seemed to be all over — but it wasn't. Rusedski saved the BBC's blushes by breaking straight back, taking the second set and thoughtfully clinching the third with a full five minutes to spare... before the next news bulletin.

With the second Test match, Royal Ascot and tennis from Eastbourne all competing for airtime on Thursday and Friday, the BBC will need a miracle to get off so lightly again.

Graf gives strong hint on retirement

STEFFI GRAF is worried that chronic injuries could damage her long-term health and is considering retiring from tennis. Graf, who has accumulated 21 grand slam tournament titles during an unparalleled 15-year career, told the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper that she was "completely open" on the possibility of retirement. "I am hopeful of the abilities of the physicians to enable me to continue playing, but I would have no problem ending my career," she said.

Graf, who recently had an operation on her left knee and is expected to be sidelined for six weeks, was also reported to be unhappy about medical advice that she received before returning to competition in May, after a three-month lay-off because of the injury. She failed to reach the last four at the French Open and has slipped from No 1 to No 3 in the world.

Real lose Capello

FOOTBALL: Real Madrid's celebrations after winning the Spanish championship on Saturday have been tainted by confirmation that Fabio Capello, their coach, is to leave. Goals from Raúl, Fernando Hierro and Predrag Mijatovic assured Real of their 27th title as they beat Atlético Madrid, their neighbours and the champions last season, 3-1 at the Santiago Bernabéu stadium, but, after seeing his team's convincing win, Capello confirmed that he is to rejoin AC Milan to replace Arrigo Sacchi, the former Italy coach. Capello won four Italian championships at Milan before moving to Madrid last summer. Jupp Heynckes, the German coach of Tenerife, is likely to take over from Capello.

Boardman pulls out

CYCLING: Udo Bolts, of Germany, riding for Telekom, won the 49th Critérium du Dauphiné race yesterday after Abraham Olano, of Spain, the leader, suffered a spectacular fall during the seventh and final stage. Chris Boardman, right, pulled out of the event and is due to undergo tests on a stomach ailment before the Tour of Catalonia, which begins on Thursday.



Kafelnikov off the mark

TENNIS: Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, saved three match points against Petr Korda, from the Czech Republic, before winning his first title of the year at the Gerry Weber Open in Halle, Germany, yesterday. Kafelnikov, the No 1 seed and No 6 in the world, beat Korda 7-6, 6-7, 7-6 in the final, having fought his way back after being sidelined with a broken finger for three months.

Downing triumph

ROWING: Downing stayed Head of the River in the Cambridge University May Races. Jesus, who got to within fractions of an inch of them on Friday, closed to within one third of a length at the Railings, but were caught by Caius at the White House. Pembroke powered over in front of a seven-boat convoy in the women's division and were more than three lengths clear at the finish.

Little success

POWERBOATING: Even though Peter Little, of Oxford, finished as runner-up in the final race of a three-leg world two-litre offshore championship off Guernsey, he captured the title with a higher points total, having come second in the first race and having won the second. He followed Ulrik Ingvarsson, of Sweden, home on Saturday, finishing 2½ minutes behind.

De la Hoya's delight

BOXING: Oscar de la Hoya displayed impressive punching power in knocking out David Kamau, of Kenya, in the second round to retain his World Boxing Council welterweight title in San Antonio, Texas, on Saturday. De la Hoya, right, knocked down Kamau early in the second round and put him down again almost on the bell to improve his perfect record to 25-0.



Jones seals Classic

GOLF: T. R. Jones, of the United States, made a birdie at the final hole to win the De Vere Hotels Seniors Classic at Belton Woods, Grantham, yesterday, beating Tommy Horton, the tournament favourite, by a shot. Jones had a final round of 71 for a three-round total of 212, four under par, for his first European Seniors Tour victory. Horton's putt for an eagle on the last stopped on the edge of the hole.

Surrey find the target

RIFLE SHOOTING: Surrey were nudged into second place in the short-range event at the inter-counties rifle meeting at Bisley on Saturday, when Hampshire beat them into second place by a single point. However, they rallied yesterday to beat Kent into second place at long range, and take the Aggregate Challenge Trophy with an overall 2,900 out of 3,000, two points in front of Kent.

Ivanisevic bows to Australian power

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GRASS-COURT tennis is increasingly about capitalising on limited opportunity, and in that respect Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, played the perfect match to suppress Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, in the final of the Stella Artois championships at Queen's Club, west London, yesterday.

Philippoussis, the No 4 seed, converted the only two break points he fashioned, one in each set, to collect his third title of the year 7-5, 6-3. Entertaining it was not, however. Both men possess the sort of thunderous services that make rallies an endangered facet of the game. A packed Centre Court willed the match to life — which it did, albeit unconventionally, when Ivanisevic summoned a ballgirl to face the Philippoussis serve — but this final will be remembered for some clinical serving from the Australian, who never gave his

Nathalie Tauziat, the No 2 seed, from France, was due to play Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, who beat Irina Spirlea, of Romania, the No 1 seed, in the final of the rain-affected DFS Classic at Edgbaston last night.

opponent the whiff of a chance.

Everything about Philippoussis is big: his serve, his groundstrokes, his physique; even his name had too many letters for the scoreboard. So, too, is his ambition, which knows no bounds when his game functions properly. Ivanisevic best summed up the situation when he later observed: "I never had no break points, no nothing."

However, this is not always the way with Philippoussis. Against Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, in the semi-final on Saturday, he looked down and out for half the match when serving too predictably to a man prepared to trade from inside the baseline. Perhaps the first three points yesterday — all aces from Philippoussis — were designed to exorcise the memory. As for his Wimbledon prospects, Ivanisevic said: "Nobody can play like that for seven matches, but Mark is capable of doing a lot

of damage. He can be very dangerous."

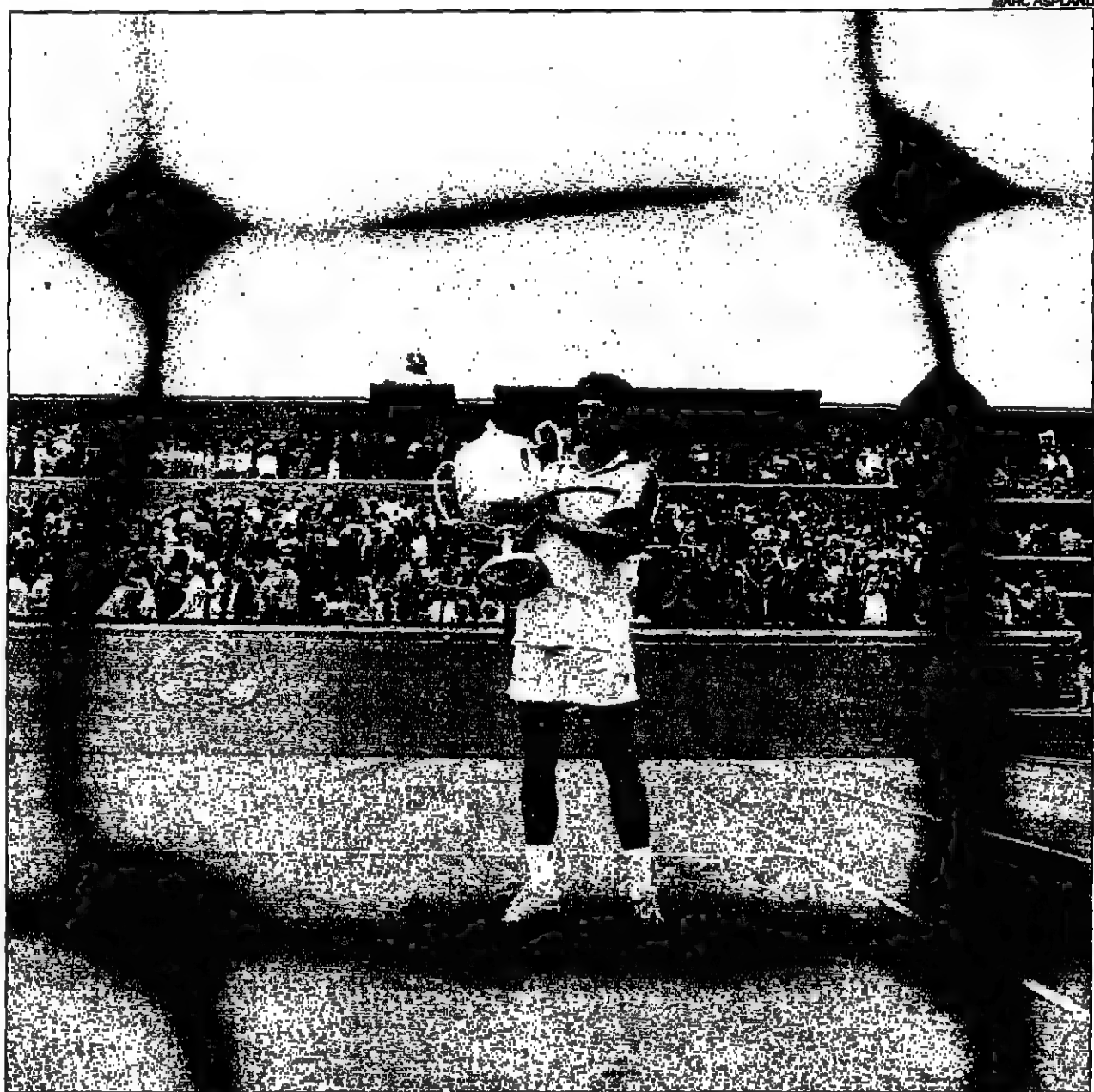
When they came, the breaks were as sudden as they were unexpected. Neither player had gained more than one point against serve in the opening set until Ivanisevic wobbled at 5-6. After Philippoussis edged ahead at 30-40, an unforced error from his opponent handed the Australian an initiative he was never to surrender — that is, but for one intrusion from Ivanisevic and the ballgirl he summoned. It was a moment Amy Kavanagh will never forget.

At 3-3 and with Philippoussis, serving with venom, 40-0 ahead, the Croat handed over his racket, instructing Kavanagh, 14, to play the next point. Philippoussis entered into the spirit and a rally ensued in which Philippoussis used his racket, head and feet before dumping the ball low into the net. At 16 strokes, it was by some way the longest — and by far the most enjoyable — exchange in the match. Evidently, Kavanagh, from Nonsuch High School, in Chesham, Surrey, took some persuading. "I was scared I would miss the ball and the crowd would laugh," she said.

The episode had hidden dangers, however, as Ivanisevic retrieved the deficit to 40-30 before Philippoussis restored normal service with one of the 15 aces he served in the match. "I nearly lost my concentration," Philippoussis admitted. "I would have gone nuts if I'd ended up losing that game." In fact, it was Ivanisevic who faltered, immediately forfeiting the next game to 30. His opponent duly completed the formalities in 53 minutes.

This year, Philippoussis has been concentrating on putting an edge to his game. "I am a more mature player," he said. "In the past, I would get to a final and think I'd done enough. Now I feel there is no point getting to a final if you lose it."

This was his first grass-court title and he has now won on every surface. "It doesn't take me long to get into the rhythm of a court," he ventured. Indeed, his opponents have that problem when Philippoussis plays like this.



Philippoussis holds the winner's trophy after beating Ivanisevic in the Stella Artois championships yesterday

British eyes turn to Rusedski

Julian Muscat welcomes the emergence of another challenger for Wimbledon

I f Greg Rusedski hoped to capture the hearts of the British public, then he surely did so during the tie-break in the deciding set of his semi-final against Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, at the Stella Artois championships on Saturday. The Centre Court gallery at Queen's Club, in west London, was willing Rusedski home as he fought out a gripping conclusion to a contest of ebb and flow, although the effort, his and theirs, was ultimately in vain.

Rusedski, born in Canada but a naturalised Briton, eventually succumbed 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, losing the tie-break 20-18 after trading match points from 7-7 with Ivanisevic, the world No 3. Although Rusedski generated six of his own, he could conjure no breaks with which to serve out the match. He repelled seven.

Rusedski was naturally disappointed to lose out in such a close call, especially since he has lost each of his five matches — and all seven tie-breaks played — against Ivanisevic to date, but his gains in this valuable pre-

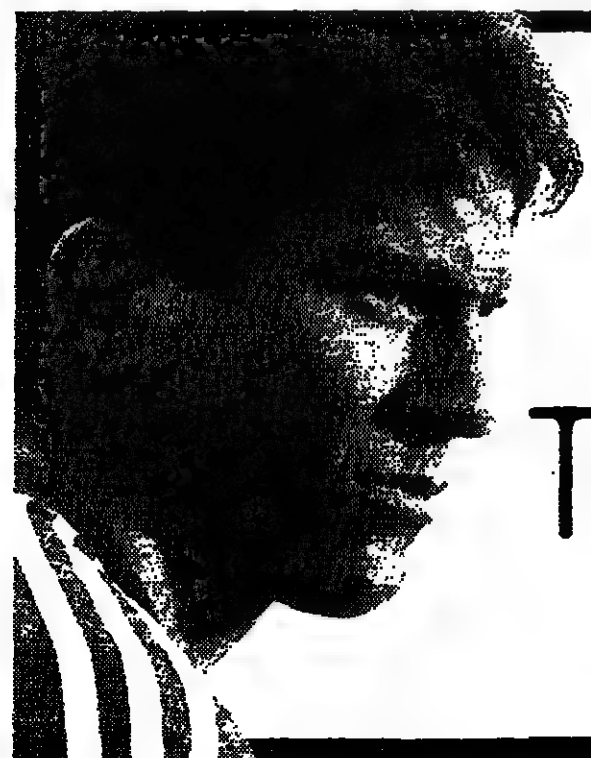
Wimbledon pointer have been impressive. Where the nation looked to Tim Henman, the British No 1, to lift the spirit, it was Rusedski who obliged. Henman stumbled against Andrew Richardson, his compatriot, before falling at the hands of Jens Knippschild, of Germany, in his second match and he now heads for the Nottingham Open, which starts today, in an effort to bolster his confidence before Wimbledon. A significant Spanish exodus suggests that Henman will almost certainly be among the 16 Wimbledon seeds, details of which are published today.

Yet while Henman's confidence is lacking, Rusedski's is soaring. The latter opens his campaign at Nottingham against Gustavo Kuerten, the No 3 seed and recent winner of the French Open. Now ranked No 15 in the world, Kuerten will be particularly vulnerable; only yesterday, he

succumbed to Felix Mantilla, of Spain, in three sets on the clay of Bologna.

Indeed, the contrasting fortunes afflicting Rusedski and Henman in this tournament illustrate the fine line between success and failure. Henman cornered the headlines during a sequence culminating with his first ATP Tour victory, in Sydney in January, yet Rusedski was equally vibrant in February, dismissing Michael Chang and Andre Agassi, both in straight sets, before retiring from the final of the event in San Jose, California, after taking the first set from Pete Sampras.

Both British players then suffered injuries that were to sideline them for seven weeks. On their return, both failed on European clay before training their sights on Queen's. Rusedski might have joined Henman among the also-rans when looking decidedly second-best against Mark Wood-



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Lehman maintains leading edge at US Open but battling Scotsman stays in contention

Montgomery in position for final advance

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND

COLIN Montgomery was almost perfectly positioned to strike for his first victory in a major championship when the fourth round of the 97th US Open got under way at the Congressional Country Club on the edge of Washington.

After rain had caused a two-hour interruption on Saturday and play was halted because of darkness, Montgomery brought his much delayed third round to a rousing finish yesterday morning nearly 18 hours after teeing-off.

Montgomery birdied the 18th for a 67 and a two-under par total of 208. His was the lowest score of the third round and he was one of only four men under par.

Montgomery was three strokes behind Tom Lehman, the Open champion, who was leading the US Open after 54 holes just as he had led the 1995 and 1996 events at the same stage. Jeff Maggert and Ernie Els were tied two strokes behind Lehman.

"I am in a good position," Montgomery said as he prepared for the last round. "All the eyes are not on you all the time." Montgomery was paired with Els, the 1994 US Open champion, which served as a reminder for the Scotsman.

The last time he and Els played together was in a play-off for the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City, in South Africa, late last year. Montgomery defeated Els that day, though he had been beaten by the South African in a play-off for the 1994 US Open at Oakmont. Els seemed to have found some putting form. After he resumed his third round he sank good putts for birdies on the 15th, 16th and 17th holes to move into contention.

As the Open moved towards its conclusion, one which was expected to be watched in person by President Clinton, one question had been answered. Tiger Woods would not win and take the second leg of the grand slam. After rounds of 74 and 67, Woods's play was just as erratic in the third round and not even another large and vocal following could do anything to spur him on.

His 73, which included one

double bogey, five bogeys, four birdies and only eight pars, put him on 214, four over par, level with José María Olazábal, Davis Love III and Hideki Kase, among others, and nine strokes behind Lehman. Even for someone of Woods's capabilities, nine strokes were too many to make up in one round over such a severe course as this one.

Tom Watson explained what was necessary for a player to do well at Congressional, and it was precisely what Woods was not doing. "The number one thought is to keep the ball in the fairway," Watson said. "It is like a game of chess. You have to have the ball in play so that one of your men does not get captured."



Els in contention

Then you have to keep the ball above the hole."

This was too difficult for the 21-year-old Masters champion. "My golf comes in spurts," Woods said. "I'll play four or five or six good holes and then I'll lose it for a bit. I have never had the flow of my golf swing for all 18 holes or all my putting stroke. And when you're playing on a golf course that is this severe you're eventually going to pay the price."

Much the same could have been said of Nick Faldo, though his 69 on Saturday marked a welcome return for him to the steady play with which he has made his name. It was his putting that had improved the most. He took only 26 putts compared with

32 and 31 on Thursday and Friday respectively. His total of 89 putts for 54 holes was ten more than Maggert, who had taken the fewest number of putts of all the remaining 84 competitors.

Faldo and Woods were paired in the fourth round, the first time they had played together since the first round of the Masters in April. That was when Woods had an outward half of 40, four over par, and then stormed home in 30, six under par, for a 70, while Faldo produced a 75.

The scoring was rather different yesterday. Woods dropped strokes at the 3rd, where he missed the green, the 4th, where he took three putts, and the 5th, where he found a bunker. Three successive bogeys were in contrast to Faldo's start of birdie, par, par, par, the birdie arriving via a putt from off the green.

There were 21 men left on the course at 8.20 on Saturday night when darkness ended play for the day. By the time they returned yesterday morning greenkeeping staff had mown the fairways by hand and cut and rolled the greens. The rain clouds had passed and in the warmer atmosphere the greens had speeded up. They were four or five feet faster than the night before, Montgomery estimated.

Montgomery returned to the 17th tee less than 12 hours after he had picked up his ball on the 16th green. He had had a full warm-up under the eye of Denis Pugh, his coach, and took his three-wood from his bag as he began his attempt to finish his third round with two par figures. He hit his ball down the right side of the fairway, a couple of feet from the rough. In trying to reach the green, over 220 yards away, with a three-iron he mis-hit the ball slightly and it tailed off into a greenside bunker.

It was then that the speed of the greens was brought home to him. His escape from the bunker nearly hit the flagstick but rolled on and on and on. For one moment Montgomery thought it would end up in the water, but it stopped 15 feet away. Nevertheless, two putts followed.

That was not what Montgomery wanted if he was to maintain a challenge. Behind him, Lehman had birdied the 14th and moved level with Maggert, the overnight leader. To his pleasure, Montgomery holed a putt of 35 feet on the 18th for a birdie two and a round of 67. He was back to two under par and the game was, as they say, still on.

EARLY FINAL SCORES (United States unless stated) 208: L. Montgomerie (67, 72, 69); 209: J. Maggert (73, 68, 68); 210: T. Lehman (70, 74, 67); 211: E. Els (71, 72, 66); 212: J. Faldo (75, 72, 69); 213: D. Love (74, 73, 69); 214: J. Olazábal (75, 72, 67); 215: H. Kase (74, 73, 67); 216: S. Love III (74, 73, 67); 217: R. B. Stewart (73, 74, 69); 218: J. P. Baker (74, 73, 69); 219: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 220: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 221: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 222: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 223: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 224: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 225: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 226: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 227: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 228: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 229: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 230: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 231: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 232: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 233: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 234: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 235: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 236: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 237: J. B. Baker (74, 73, 69); 238: J. B. 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CRICKET

Tufnell may enter calculations for Lord's line-up

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S strategy for the coming week at Lord's is dictated by the primary need to stop Australia playing the way they choose. To do this, they must bowl them out for accessible totals, a priority that may yet persuade them to include a fifth front-line bowler in their XI for the second Test.

The routine re-selection of the 13 who began the Ashes series at Edgbaston did not even involve a meeting of David Graveney's panel. The telephone sufficed. But this does not necessarily imply that the same team will take the field on Thursday.

The top six batsmen will certainly be unchanged, which means Mark Butcher will not suffer the one-cap fate of his father, Alan. Even in making two low scores at Edgbaston, Butcher played some pedigree strokes and his technique is unarguably more compact than that of the otherwise gifted Nick Knight.

If there is to be tinkering, it will be in the balance of the bowling attack. "In all our planning, we are conscious of the way Australia play," Graveney said yesterday. "They like to build a huge score and then use their wrist spinners. To disturb this pattern, we must continue to bowl them out for respectably low scores."

Graveney was not suggesting that the team will be altered randomly, merely indicating circumstances in which it might be. After the style and emphasis with which England won in Birmingham, changes are unlikely. But, whereas the final decision there was between Mark Ealham and Adam Hobbins, at Lord's it may be between Ealham and Philip Tufnell, or even Tufnell and Devon Malcolm.

The balance of three seam bowlers and one spinner, with Ealham's medium-pace in reserve, worked so well at Edgbaston because eight Australian wickets were taken before lunch on the first day, allowing England to build such a lead that the match was theirs to manipulate and manoeuvre.

It will not always be so simple. Conditions will not always favour the England attack and they will not always make such good use of them. In time, Michael Atherton, as captain, will yearn for the scope and control he enjoyed in New Zealand from

into the negativity of bowling over the wicket outside leg stump. If he does play on Thursday, he will be instructed that such a tactic is to be used only as a last resort.

Tufnell's inclusion depends partly on the weather — the more unsettled it is, the less likely he is to play — but largely on the appearance of the pitch. It is a relief surface, used only twice, and the England management will need to be persuaded that it will respond to spin more than the other new pitches at Lord's.

If they are convinced, then the easiest option is to trade Tufnell for Malcolm. The bold move is to play both and dispense with Ealham. This would necessitate Croft moving up to bat at No 7, but he has reacted well to extra batting responsibility before and the selectors are encouraged that he has been promoted into Glamorgan's top six.

It will be a first Lord's Test for Croft, evidence of how far and fast he has travelled since his debut at the Oval last August. Now, he is an integral part of the team, an embodiment of its spirit. He believes he can take a wicket with every ball, which is the quality England require from all their bowlers against Australia.

With this in mind, the youth policy is being advanced by the inclusion of Ashley Cowan in the squad for this week. He has no prospect of playing but, like Alex Tudor at Edgbaston, will benefit from being acquainted with the routines and personnel of the Test team. He will stay with the side until Friday, when Essex begin a game against Oxford University, but such is his form and potential, that it may not be long before he is back in earnest.

ENGLAND XIII		
Player (County)	Age	Caps
M A Atherton (Lancs, capt)	25	88
M A Butcher (Surrey)	24	1
A R Caddick (Somerset)	26	12
J P Crawley (Lancashire)	25	18
R D B Croft (Glamorgan)	27	8
M A Ealham (Kent)	27	3
D Gough (Nottinghamshire)	26	18
A J Hildreth (Surrey)	28	0
N Hussain (Essex)	29	18
D E Malcom (Derbyshire)	34	37
A J Stewart (Surrey)	34	64
G P Thompson (Surrey)	27	38
P C Tufnell (Middlesex)	31	27

the presence of two accomplished slow bowlers.

Tufnell and Robert Croft complemented each other effectively during the victories at Wellington and Christchurch, if not in the way many would have anticipated. It was Croft, saddled for so long with the role of stock bowler for Glamorgan, who became the aggressor and likely wicket-taker; Tufnell, whose reputation was made by match-winning analyses in his early Tests, was now his parsimonious straight man.

Graveney, himself a slow left-armed of wisdom and longevity, is rightly concerned that Tufnell should not regress



Maddy is left in inelegant limbo as Reiffel strikes an early blow for the Australians

Reiffel quick to underline Test credentials

By SIMON WILDE

LEICESTER (second day of three; Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 158 runs behind the Australians

THERE must be some polite coughing going on in the homes of the Australia selectors at the moment. These men will say that they did, at least, pick out Paul Reiffel's name when asked to reinforce the team in England, but the fact remains that they omitted him from the original party two months ago.

It is a mistake that may severely embarrass them, judging by the spectacular start that Reiffel, the Victoria seam bowler, has made since joining the tour. In the two hours of play that were possible at Grace Road yesterday, he took three for 12 from ten overs as Leicestershire tottered to 62 for four in reply to the touring team's 220 for eight declared.

Eight of the runs he conceded came from two boundaries in one over, by Macmillan, who stood alone in attempting to break the fierce strangeness applied by Reiffel and McGrath on a green, seaming pitch. As in his two brief appearances at Trent Bridge last week, Reiffel barely wasted a ball and was responsible for the initial breakthrough.

His four figures stand at a remarkable six for 27 from 20 overs and, barring injury, his place for the second Test match is assured. At Trent Bridge he claimed his first wicket with his twelfth ball; here it took him only three to produce a delicious off-cutter that trimmed the balls of Maddy.

He did not strike again until his eighth over, when Sutcliffe, who had spent an hour labouring over his three runs, sought to cut a ball crudely just outside off stump and was caught behind. In his next over, Whitaker gave a gentle catch to short leg off a

ball that surprised him with its extra bounce.

While everything Reiffel does seems to work like a charm, McGrath has trouble over-stepping the crease and perseveres without reward. He deserved a wicket, most especially in his fifth over when Macmillan misjudged a hook and the ball looped gently into — and out of — the hands of Julian at backward square leg.

Macmillan stayed to irritate not only McGrath but also Warne, who found himself unceremoniously struck for two straight fours in succession in his second over. It was an undistinguished spell by



McGrath: persevering

Warne: his first ball was a blatant loosener that Habib dispatched through the covers and there were also a fair number of balls fired needlessly past leg stump. He had some measure of revenge when Macmillan miscued an off drive to Bevan at point, having scored a robust 34, with six fours.

Rain in the morning and at 3.10pm condensed the day to 30.3 overs, which took the time lost by the Australians since the first Test to two-and-a-half days out of a possible five. They repaired to the golf course for an evening round, just as the sun started to shine on a watery Grace Road.

Support grows for Johnston fund

By SIMON WILDE

WHILE England and Australia do battle at Lord's this week, one of the greatest friends of cricket and its most famous ground will be remembered in clubs and schools all over the country during "Johnston Week", an event designed to foster interest in the game and raise funds for its grass-roots.

The week, which starts on Saturday and is sponsored by HSA Healthcare, was launched last year in memory of the late Brian Johnston, the doyen of BBC radio's *Test Match Special* programme. Johnston would have been 85 next Tuesday. The week will see upwards of 700 clubs and schools marking the event in a variety of ways, many centring on cricket matches and many with family-orient-



tated themes. The idea is to raise local awareness of the clubs and generate money through various fund-raising activities and a raffle run by the organisers, the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust. Half the proceeds go directly to the clubs, half to the trust, which ploughs everything it receives back into the game.

The entry shows an impressive increase on last year, when there were 500 partici-

pants. "I'm delighted with the response," Michael Elmit, the chief executive of the trust, said. "Awareness of the week has clearly increased and, as organisers, we are also starting to understand more about how things should be done. The raffle prizes are more relevant now to being sold to the widest possible audience. Obviously, we are hoping to continue to raise interest over the next four or five years."

"Above all, we want to encourage the young to take up the game. Almost all our awards go to clubs which have opened up, or are considering opening up, youth sections."

The trust has recently issued grants to five clubs and community associations across Britain — in Rotherham, Manchester, Barnsley, Peterborough and Cardiff — to help them promote the develop-

ment of youth cricket by supplying badly needed equipment. It also gave a grant to British Blind Sport to help it run a six-a-side cricket competition. Brian Johnston was a great supporter of blind cricket and his widow, Pauline, will attend the competition's final at Lord's in August.

HSA, a non-profit making organisation set up to provide healthcare for its members, will support the week for the second year by contacting potential participants through its mail-outs. Last week, it sent out posters to 6,000 clubs and schools.

Those interested in participating in the HSA Johnstons Weeks should contact Michael Elmit at the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust, PO Box 3897, Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood Road, London NW8 8QX (tel: 0171 224 1005).

Elegant Smith is top of the class

By BARNEY SPENDER

FENNER'S (second day of three; Cambridge University won toss): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 109 runs ahead of Cambridge University

IT IS easy for cricket followers to make comparisons with players from another generation. Usually, they are quickly forgotten, but, when someone like Derek Randall looks a 19-year-old English batsman to Greg Chappell, that most elegant of Australians, it is worth taking note.

The player is Ed Smith, the Cambridge opener who yesterday scored an excellent 99 at Fenner's as the University challenged the county to make a game of it.

With his dismissal, Anurag Singh declared 100 runs be-

hind in the hope that Durham would give Cambridge a run chase today and a chance to emulate Oxford's win over Glamorgan last week.

Smith averaged above 50 for the University last season and began this game averaging a tad more than 85, second in the country. Yesterday he improved on that, playing some magnificent on drives which took him to 50 off 52 balls.

He looked set for his second century of the season, after a fine 190 against Leicestershire, but his inexperience was exploited by David Boon, the Durham captain, who strangled his attempts to get the single to the extent that Smith hit out to Daley at wide mid-on. Smith faced 171 balls and hit 15 fours.

There was irony in his departure as it was Smith's play through the on side that

had brought him many of his runs and Randall's comparison to Chappell.

Whether that will prove to be more than hyperbole remains to be seen, but the evidence so far suggests that Smith has a bright future, whether it is for Cambridge next season or for Kent, to whom he is contracted.

"He is a quality player," Randall said. "He has a good temperament, good concentration, everything really."

High praise, indeed, although Randall sensibly pointed to the slow Fenner's pitches as a factor and also had a word of warning. "He's not very athletic, which is a drawback in the field," he said. "I expect Kent will want to work on that, especially for the one-day stuff."

Smith and John Ralledge, his opening partner, were

given the ideal start, after Boon's overnight declaration, as the Durham attack of Ben and Wood produced what Geoff Arnold, their bowling coach, described as "the worst new-ball bowling I have seen in a long, long time".

The fifty came up in the eighth over and the pair went on to add 132 for the first wicket, the run-rate only slowing when James Boiling intervened with an accurate spell of off spin, which brought him figures of one for 27 from 24 overs. 11 of which were maidens. His wicket came when Ralledge, who had become painfully becalmed, padded up in front of his stumps, but Robert Jones helped to add 56 before Smith fell and Cambridge declared.

There was time for a further seven overs before rain finished play for the day.

West Indies openers end domination of bowlers

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

STUART WILLIAMS and Sherwin Campbell, the opening batsmen, hit unbeaten half-centuries as West Indies raced towards victory on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at St John's, Antigua.

After the fall of 17 wickets on Saturday, a victory target of 187 for West Indies looked a tricky one on an unreliable pitch, but Williams and Campbell seized the initiative so completely that, by lunch, their unbeaten partnership was worth 129 from only 29 overs.

Williams was the more fluent and his undefeated 73 came from only 82 balls. It was spiced with 11 fours and two sixes. Campbell, who completed his second half-century of the match in the over before lunch, had then faced 95 balls and hit four fours.

Sri Lanka missed one opportunity to remove Campbell, when he was 31. In the same over that he pulled a ball from Sajeeva de Silva just out of the reach of mid-on, he edged to first slip where Roshan Mahanama could not hang on to a low chance.

Sri Lanka, resuming at 151 for eight in their second innings, with Hashan Tillekeratne unable to bat because of a broken hand, lasted for just two balls. The first was a no-ball, then Franklin Rose had Murtiath Muralitharan

caught in the gully after he had sparred at a short-pitched ball. Rose ended with three wickets for 43 off nine overs and Curly Ambrose had three for 41, also off nine overs, for match figures of eight for 78.

Williams and Campbell then made such a flying start that they took 24 off the first four overs and even the introduction of Muralitharan, who had caused problems in the first innings, could not stop the onslaught, Williams hitting him for 15 in his third over.

On Saturday Muralitharan took five wickets as West Indies were bowled out for 189 to trail by 34 runs on the first innings, but, with Ambrose again taking three cheap wickets at the top of the order, Sri Lanka were forced to struggle to set any sort of target.



Ambrose: eight in match

Ambrose, who had captured his 300th Test wicket on Friday, removed Sanath Jayasuriya, the top-scorer in the first innings, with his third ball and quickly added the wickets of Mahanama and the left-handed Russell Arnold to leave Sri Lanka 41 for three. Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, Sri Lanka's most experienced players, saw off Ambrose and added 44 for the fourth wicket before Ian Bishop accounted for him in his eventual second over.

Ranatunga flicked the ball sweetly off his legs, but managed to pick out one of only two fielders on the leg side. Rose hauling down the catch at fine leg.

De Silva responded by hooking the next ball to square leg for six, but he was out for 47 three balls later, his flat-footed drive at an outswinger providing Browne with his third catch.

Earlier, Muralitharan had cleaned up the lower order batsmen to finish with five for 34 off 23.4 overs. After resuming at 56 for one, West Indies were pegged back by the pace bowling of Pushpakumara and Sajeeva de Silva, the former striking a double blow by removing the left-handed Floyd Reifer before sending back Brian Lara without a run to his name, both caught behind.

Hampshire fail to counter Mushtaq

By JACK BAILEY

BASINGSTOKE (Hampshire won toss; Somerset (4pts) beat Hampshire by six runs)

DESPITE Kevan James's love affair with the Basingstoke pitch, which brought him three more wickets yesterday, Matthew Keetch's 44 and stout innings from John Stephenson and Shaun Udall, Hampshire showed the wiles of Mushtaq Ahmed too much of a mystery. Once he appeared to weave his oriental spell, the Hampshire innings veered sharply off course. The target of 207 to win was beyond them.

It was not so much the wickets Mushtaq took as the pressure he put on the batsmen to score at the other end. Hampshire, although aided by a remarkable over from Andy Caddick — which lasted 12 balls, contained five wides, a no ball, a dropped catch and moved the score from 79 to 95 — were quickly behind the dock and stayed there, although Udall's last-ditch effort was worthy of an excellent minstrel.

Somerset found little solace in the early exchanges and the loss of their first two wickets before a run was scored did nothing to encourage them. Although Turner avoided the early epidemic of chopping the ball on to the stumps and contributed largely to Somerset's 86 for six, there was

precious little early support. It looked as though the old alliance of the Basingstoke pitch — low and slow — and James — accurate and medium-paced — had done the trick. Then Graham Rose entered the fray, after a useful contribution from Bowler.

Rose continued quite majestically as the tail, none more effectively than Jason Kerr, kept the other end going. He hit only four fours in his undefeated 37, but he certainly warmed the fingers of the Hampshire bowlers.

The final total of 175 was reached just before Mushtaq was caught at cover. By then, Hampshire knew that a tough task awaited them. Even Hayden was so restricted as to take 17 overs in scoring 24 runs, although it took an astonishing catch by little Mushtaq to get rid of him. A sliced drive went skittering towards the third-man boundary, Mushtaq, his legs going like pistons, covered 25 yards before he took the ball at head height.

Mushtaq also bowled to the bafflement of everyone who faced him and he had completed his overs by the time Udall was into his stride. The last few overs saw the Hampshire off-spinner come close to pulling off an unlikely win, but in the end he fell, bravely, short.

Glamorgan put unhappy memories behind them

By RUPERT COX

CARDIFF (Middlesex won toss; Glamorgan (4pts) beat Middlesex by six wickets)

HAVING been chastened by an innings defeat and a woeful 31 all out, their fourth-lowest championship score, on Saturday, Glamorgan responded in the best possible manner, alleviating much of the bruising Welsh egos had suffered. Set a target of 185 by Middlesex, Glamorgan gleamed an emphatic six-wicket victory, with 27 balls to spare, at Sophia Gardens yesterday. It was their fourth Axa Life League victory and keeps them in touch with the leaders.

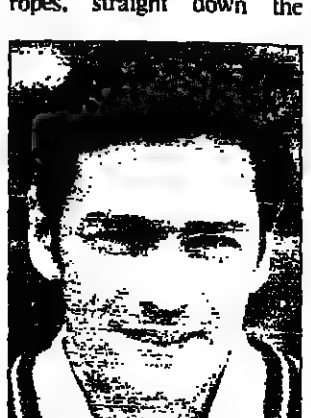
Both sides included two spinners on a bare wicket that enticed Mark Ramprakash to take first use of it. The visitors' innings, though, incorporated just five fours and a six, as Middlesex failed to capture sufficient momentum to hoist their score beyond 200. Only their captain, Ramprakash, with a stylish 47, and Jason Pooley, who contributed a fluent and valuable 35, managed to come to terms with the slow and low surface.

The South African, Jacques Kallis, survived a confident appeal first ball as he shuffled across his stumps to Steve Watkins, but was soon playing with flair through the leg side. Darren Thomas, though, induced an injudicious waltz

which produced a good low catch by Adrian Shaw, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, who continues to keep Colin Metson, this year's beneficiary, out of the side.

There are still minor rumblings in the valleys at Metson's omission and it is easy to sympathise with this notion in view of the fact that this was his benefit match, against his former county. A solitary outing would not have markedly weakened the lineup.

Requiring marginally over 45 an over, Robert Croft revelled in his position at the top of the order with a fluent 44 from 37 balls. Despite losing Hugh Morris early to Jamie Hewitt, Croft, timing the ball sweetly, struck Phil Tufnell three times over the ropes, straight down the



Ramprakash: stylish

ground, before Keith Dutch, the Middlesex off-spinner, trapped him leg-before as he swept. The early impetus, though, took the onus from the middle order, enabling them to play at a more sedate pace, even if they did suffer the odd wobble in reaching their target when Adrian Dale lofted to deep mid-wicket and Tony Cottee was leg-before to Paul Weekes.

Matthew Maynard, striking a characteristically belligerent unbeaten 71, and a sensible 29 not out from Stephen James steadied the partisan crowds' apprehension. Maynard struck the only fifty of the match from 61 balls, adorned by four fours, before he cut loose to finish the match. He will be particularly pleased with his strategy, employing Croft as the opening batsman and batting James at No 6. Croft laid the foundation in the pinch-hitting role — Glamorgan were always ahead of the game — and James, so adept at collecting singles, assisted his captain over the final hurdle.

Maynard's own contribution will, in all probability, please him most. Playing a mature hand, foreign to his nature and often lacking in his batting, he selected the wayward delivery with care and duly punished it. By contrast, Middlesex's policy was found wanting.

CRICKET

Minnows drawn into limelight for wrong reasons

THERE may be many things wrong with county championship cricket, but as a sporting soap opera, with a constantly shifting stage, it has no equal. Already, this week, we have seen the captain of the runners-up last year pack his bags in pique and head home to Australia. Then, on Saturday, the team fancied by many for the title were bowled out for 31. What next?

By yesterday, it was a moot point whether the greater angst was evident in Wales or the East Midlands. Glamorgan's belief that the championship can be won for the first time in 28 years has suffered a humiliating setback, but Derbyshire, suddenly rudderless and with the finger of blame being pointed indiscriminately, can think no further ahead than tomorrow.

The plight of Glamorgan is transient, the crime on their conscience an aberration against Middlesex, who needed only 16 overs of seam bowling from Angus Fraser and Jamie Hewitt to dismiss them. The plight of Derbyshire is less instantly embarrassing, yet profoundly more damaging.

Glamorgan's batsmen will suffer a sleepless night or two over the freakish events at Cardiff. Derbyshire's senior players may be feeling uncomfortable for a while longer over the dramatic departure of Dean Jones — and its ramifications at committee level have not even begun.

If these clubs have one thing in common, it is their perceived ordinariness. The casual watcher of county cricket expects the prizes to be routinely divided up among a selection of teams that will include Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex and Surrey, but decidedly not Derbyshire and Glamorgan.

They are not merely unfashionable counties, they are counties for whom fashion never calls. On the very rare occasion when success is within their reach, they must grab it for fear of having a very long wait if it slips away. On the evidence of the past few days, Derbyshire have split their chances and Glamorgan are desperately fumbling with theirs.

Jones's walk-out has everything to do with the prima donna factor. He has been unable to tolerate them in a dressing-room that he has tried to toughen up, but, in making his excessive statement and resigning, he has behaved like one himself. Whether the senior players whom he cites so resentfully feel ashamed, or relieved, is not yet apparent.

On Saturday evening,

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

Radio 5 Live's Six-O-Six programme, hosted by Geoffrey Boycott, attracted a number of calls on the affair from disgruntled Derbyshire supporters.

One put the blame on Chris Adams — patently absurd as he had grown close to Jones and will doubtless be still more determined to move on now that he has left. Another implied that the atmosphere had been caused by Kim Barnett, the former captain of long standing.

More than one named Dominic Cork as the catalyst, an opinion evidently shared by Boycott, who had used his regular slot on BBC television to call Cork "a show pony", and add: "He may have talent, but he does have an attitude problem. If you think I was bad, my God he's three times worse, and I think I could play better than him."

Probably, the full truth will never emerge. Perhaps only Jones himself knows it, but he has left behind an unholy mess, some divisive factions and a number of unanswered questions. Will Les Stollman, the coach whom he insisted on bringing with him from Victoria, stay on without him? Will Mike Horton, the chairman who restored the club's financial security, but insisted

that he would remain only so long as they went forward on the field, decide that he has had enough of a thankless responsibility?

And who will take on the captaincy with Jones gone but the malcontents still lurking, especially in circumstances that could hardly be thought attractive? Floundering in the championship and the Sunday league, Derbyshire's season rests precariously on success in the NatWest Trophy. It is all far removed from the high-flying optimism of only a year ago, when they sustained a title involvement to the final round of games.

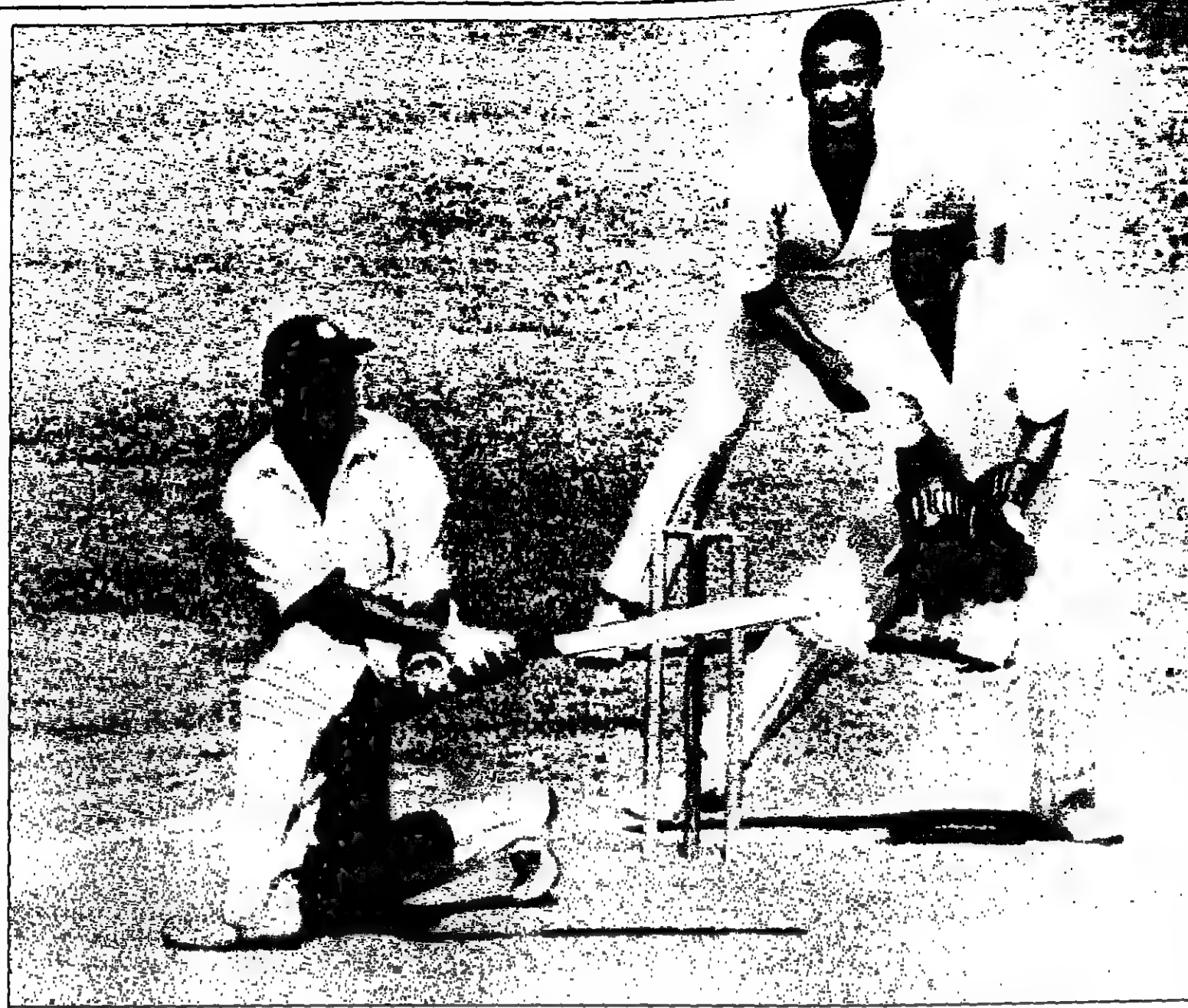
Glamorgan feel that they are capable of such a challenge this year and the look of their squad supports the claim. Their scorecard on Saturday, however, mocks it and, after a lengthy dressing-room inquisition, Matthew Maynard, the captain, emerged to say something appropriately bewildered. "The trouble with this game," he said, "is that you never know what is going to happen next."

Perhaps, in playing Middlesex at Cardiff, they should have guessed at something outlandish. Four years ago, after two comparably high-scoring first innings, Glamorgan were swept away by the spin of Philip Tufnell, who took career-best figures of eight for 29.

This time, it was Tufnell's batting — not his strongest suit — that frustrated Glamorgan, as the tenth Middlesex wicket added 41, ten more than the entire home side were to make against Fraser, the old warhorse, and Hewitt, the young buck. At 21, standing 6ft 2in and with a good, high action, Hewitt has an interesting future in a team beginning to play to potential.

Middlesex are top of the table this morning, two points clear of Essex, and they will still be there tonight unless Gloucestershire or Kent manage to concoct victory. Neither are especially well placed, Gloucestershire requiring 372 to beat Worcestershire and Kent having suffered interruptions at the hands of the Manchester weather.

On a day, however, when Derbyshire will be fighting for survival against Edgbaston and contemplating a most uncertain future, Glamorgan will be pondering the lessons of the future list. The indignity suffered on Saturday was not their worst in the championship — that came 73 years ago when they were dismissed by Lancashire for 22 at Aigburth in Liverpool. And where must they travel for their next match, on Wednesday? You've guessed it.



Graveney sweeps majestically against West Indies during his heyday. A career that blossomed in his late thirties yielded a Test average of 44.38

Batting talent that blossomed late

Ivo Tennant joins in the celebrations to mark the seventieth birthday of one of England's most stylish stroke-makers

When Tom Graveney began his long and eminent career in first-class cricket, the game was not short of orobund officials. A lunch interval during a match between Gloucestershire and Essex was lengthened because of a speech by a dignitary who apologised that mediocrity was the outstanding feature of both sides. He welcomed "the men from Essex" and then said that their opponents did include two promising young players, "the brothers Graveney".

It took Graveney, who is 70 today, many years to be thought of universally as a batsman of gravity, of weight, of seriousness. Sir Gubby Allen and Sir Leonard Hutton regarded him, initially, as a lightweight who failed repeatedly to make runs against Australia. He did not reach his peak until he had passed 35, considerably later than contemporaries of similar talent. Only then was this most elegant of cricketers seen as not only a consistent run-maker, but also one of world class.

Paradoxically, an easy-going, uncomplicated individual courted controversy. To this day, he is upset at the manner in which Gloucestershire removed him from the captaincy in 1960. His Test career, which he resurrected brilliantly later that decade, ended in 1969 when he took part in a knockabout for his own benefit on a rest day. His subsequent role as player-coach of Queensland also ended in a row.

This, though, was a batsman — "a poor man's Denis Compton", as he modestly describes himself — who, for many years, looked upon cricket as a game rather than a job, and one that entailed a fair amount of socialising. Only after Graveney joined Worcestershire, and determined to show his old county what they were missing, did he bat with a marked consistency. His high backlift, top-of-the-handle grip, ability to hook off the front foot and wonderful sense of timing made him, as Tony Lewis wrote, "an aesthetic sight not to be forgotten".

Having been neglected by England for three years, he returned at Lord's in 1966, making 96 on his 39th birthday. It was a terrific match, which West Indies drew mainly through the superlat

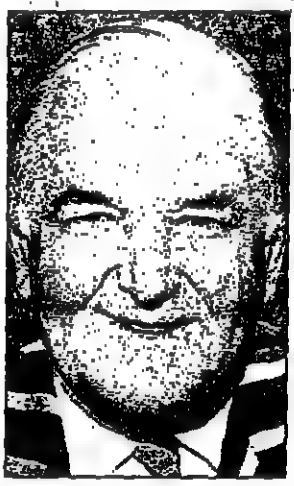
ive batting of Garry Sobers, whom Graveney believes to be the greatest cricketer to have played the game. Both will be back there for the second Test against Australia this week. Graveney will be running a box for Willis Coroon, Peter May's old firm, and liaising with David, his nephew, now the chairman of selectors.

The two have always had a good relationship. "My wife

and I look upon his children as our grandchildren," Graveney said. "I always talk about the game to David, but he doesn't need any help from me. I remember the nasty interview Terry Wogan had with him and Mike Gatting when they came back from their unofficial tour of South Africa and how well he handled it."

"I was at Edgbaston for the first three days of the first Test and it was so apparent that England were enjoying playing for David. Mike and Graham Gooch. We are all very conscious of making county cricket more competitive and reducing staffs — it is not fair on young men that they should have to leave the game after a short while and then find another job. But I don't think the championship was any more competitive in the 1960s."

Graveney, who was once asked by May to become a selector but could not afford to give up commenting for the BBC, is glad that he played when he did. He does not care for coloured clothing and preferred an era when opponents socialised



Graveney celebrates reaching 70 not out today

with one another and forged lasting friendships.

He enjoyed impromptu parties, rum and coke in Barbados and assimilating knowledge from players whom he liked and admired. Only eight men have scored more than his 47,793 runs. His average from 79 Tests, 44.38, is only fractionally inferior to his 44.91 in all first-class cricket. He feels that all he lacked, compared with players of today, was their remuneration.

Graveney remained fit enough to put on his whites for the last time at 65 (c David Frost b Robert Powell) in a charity match, and he plays golf off a handicap of eight. He is president of Worcestershire, a vice-president of Gloucestershire and sells artificial plumes from an office in Cheltenham.

His commitments still allow him time for his family — Tim, his son, plays for Maidenhead and Bray, and Rebecca, his daughter, is a competent golfer — that he was unable to find in his touring days. They and Jackie, his wife of 45 years, Basil D'Oliveira, Godfrey Evans and Arthur Milton will be among the gathering who, in a restaurant in Cheltenham tonight, will be toasting this most stylish of batsmen.

Reeve prefers back seat in backroom role at Somerset

By PAT GIBSON



Reeve breaks the game down

IT IS hard to think of Dermot Reeve as unobtrusive. After all, there can never have been a more hyperactive, not to say irritating, cricketer, whose penchant for getting up the noses of the opposition played no small part in his success as Warwickshire captain.

Imagine what he could have been like as a coach, doing his calisthenics on the pavilion balcony, gesticulating to the captain to make a change in the field, giving his bowlers earache with advice about which variation they should try next, adjusting an imaginary ball every time that his batsmen faced a ball.

In fact, he has been nothing like that since he arrived at Somerset,

charged not just with giving them some of the success that he gave Warwickshire — he won six trophies in three seasons — but also with maintaining his own high profile through PR and marketing work for the club.

This explains why he is sometimes more conspicuous by his absence than his presence. On Sundays, for instance, he will often be found doing television commentary miles away from where his side is playing; when Somerset demolished Lancashire inside five sessions last week, to record their first championship victory, he was nowhere to be seen.

Such absences, he believes, are doubly beneficial. First, it gives him the chance to spy on future opposition, and he has always been

noted for his ability to assess their strengths and weaknesses and react accordingly; secondly, it allows the captain space of his own and he always appreciated that, too.

Reeve made his greatest impact before the season even started. He had his own ideas about fitness — introducing financial inducements for players to report back early and in good shape — diet and the psychological side of the game.

"I felt it was my job to make the Somerset players the best prepared on the county circuit," he said, "and a lot of that was to do with mental preparation, trying to give them the right environment and atmosphere to make them perform to their potential."

"I don't believe in motivation

through intimidation, which has happened to players in the past. You don't get the best out of them that way. I believe in encouraging them and making them want to turn up and play cricket. It is a profession, but I don't think they should look on it as just a job."

Is he as innovative as a coach as he was as a captain? "All I will say is that I enjoyed the pre-season more than any I experienced as a player," he said, "but, once the season gets under way, the coach plays a less significant part than the captain."

"This is Peter Bowler's time rather than Dermot Reeve's time. There is no point in me trying to captain the team from the balcony. Over to Bowler, then, a man as

opinionated as Reeve. "From what I heard," he said, "Dermot was always trying to do things differently as a captain and he has definitely been that way as a coach. He has certainly opened our eyes."

"For example, anybody can tell a young player to go and concentrate on his game, but the first thing the player will ask is: 'Concentrate on what?' Dermot is prepared to go that much further and, rather than talk in clichés, go away with the player and work closely with him."

"What he does is simple in many ways. He breaks the game down into all the different areas and gives every single one as much attention as any other. If he can improve you as a player by just 1 per cent, then he's on the right track."

"As for the captaincy, he has

stepped away a little bit more as the season has gone on and it has become my show to run in many respects. From that point of view, he's very unobtrusive, but, when I've got a bloke who has been a very successful captain for four years, I would be very stupid not to be picking his brains the whole time and using everything he can give me. I feel very lucky to have him there."

Meanwhile, Reeve, his playing days over at the age of 34 because of an arthritic hip, is still trying to come to terms with the fact that, as a born competitor, he can no longer get out there and compete. He has to find an outlet, so, wherever possible, he gets on an exercise bike to work off his excess energy while watching his team play.

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Middlesex

CARDIFF (third day of four) Middlesex (223/3) beat Glamorgan (8) by an innings and seven runs.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 281 (R D B Cook 82, M P Maynard 58, A H C Fraser 4 for 68).

Second Innings

S P James bowled b Fraser 2
H Morris bowled b Fraser 2
D A C and b Hewitt 2
M P Maynard bowled b Fraser 2
P A Cootney bowled b Hewitt 2
R D B Cook bowled b Hewitt 2
A H C Fraser bowled b Hewitt 2
Wesley Young bowled b Fraser 2
S L Watson not out 0
S J Watson not out 0
Total (105.2 overs) 319

Middlesex: First Innings

P N Weekes c Thomas b Watson 3
J H Kallis c Maynard b Watson 3
M R Ramchandani c Shaw b Watson 3
M V Guting c Shaw b Watson 3
C Pootney bowled b Cook 40
A H C Fraser c Shaw b Watson 8
R D Brown bowled b Thomas 12
K P Dutch c Shaw b Thomas 4
R L Johnson c Maynard b Watson 15
J P Hewitt not out 15
P C R Tufnell b Thomas 23
Extras (lb 1, w 4, nb 4) 9
Total (105.2 overs) 319

Gloucestershire v Worcestershire

BRISTOL (third day of four) Gloucestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, require 363 runs to beat Worcestershire.

Worcestershire: First Innings 250 (J Rhodes 78, S R Lampert 32, K R Spring 20, M W Allender 5 for 41).

Second Innings

T S Curtis c Ball b Young 137
W P C Weston c Russell b Smith 14
G A Hick c Tranter b Ball 13
K R Spring not out 33
G R Haynes bowled b Young 0
D A Leachman not out 12
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 2) 5
Total (4 wickets down) 350

Gloucestershire: First Innings 229

Second Innings

A J Wright not out 0
N J Tranter bowled b Chapman 0
J Lewis not out 0
Total (1 wicket) 9
FALL OF WICKET 1-8

Hamshire v Somerset

BASINGSTOKE (third day of four) Hampshire (213) beat Somerset (4) by nine runs.

Hampshire: First Innings 204 (Second Innings 189 (M L Hayden 63, G D Rose 5 for 13)).

Somerset: First Innings 158 (P C G L Holloway 73 not out, K D James 5 for 44).

Second Innings

M N Lethbridge bowled b James 33
P D Brown bowled b James 33
P C L Holloway c Ayres b James 59
J R Haden b James 22
K A Parsons c Stephenson b James 74
H J Turner c James b Uddell 8
G D Rose c Bova b James 8
A P van Troost c Ayres b James 0
Muggeridge Ahmed c Lanthier b James 4
D A Claddock c Bova b James 8
K J Shee not out 17
Extras (lb 12, w 2, nb 4) 18
Total (288 overs) 225

FALL OF WICKETS 1-18, 2-35, 3-63, 4-175, 5-189, 6-195, 7-195, 8-207, 9-219

BOWLING: Hampshire 9-0-34-0, Bova 11-2-40-1, Uddell 12-4-27-1, James 22-1-9-8-8, Parsons 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1

Lancashire v Kent

OLD TRAFFORD (third day of four), Kent, with six second-innings wickets in hand, require 397 runs to beat Lancashire.

Lancashire: First Innings 204 (Second Innings 189 (M L Hayden 63, G D Rose 5 for 13)).

Somerset: First Innings 158 (P C G L Holloway 73 not out, K D James 5 for 44).

Second Innings

M N Lethbridge bowled b James 33
P D Brown bowled b James 33
P C L Holloway c Ayres b James 59
J R Haden b James 22
K A Parsons c Stephenson b James 74
H J Turner c James b Uddell 8
G D Rose c Bova b James 8
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FALL OF WICKETS 1-18, 2-35, 3-63, 4-175, 5-189, 6-195, 7-195, 8-207, 9-219

BOWLING: Hampshire 9-0-34-0, Bova 11-2-40-1, Uddell 12-4-27-1, James 22-1-9-8-8, Parsons 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1

Surrey v Yorkshire

THE OVAL (third day of four), Yorkshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 397 runs to beat Surrey.

Lancashire: First Innings 204 (Second Innings 189 (M L Hayden 63, G D Rose 5 for 13)).

Somerset: First Innings 158 (P C G L Holloway 73 not out, K D James 5 for 44).

Second Innings

M N Lethbridge bowled b James 33
P D Brown bowled b James 33
P C L Holloway c Ayres b James 59
J R Haden b James 22
K A Parsons c Stephenson b James 74
H J Turner c James b Uddell 8
G D Rose c Bova b James 8
A P van Troost c Ayres b James 0
Muggeridge Ahmed c Lanthier b James 4
D A Claddock c Bova b James 8
K J Shee not out 17
Extras (lb 12, w 2, nb 4) 18
Total (288 overs) 225

FALL OF WICKETS 1-18, 2-35, 3-63, 4-175, 5-189, 6-195, 7-195, 8-207, 9-219

BOWLING: Hampshire 9-0-34-0, Bova 11-2-40-1, Uddell 12-4-27-1, James 22-1-9-8-8, Parsons 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1, Stephenson 16-4-20-1

Sussex v Essex

HOVE (third day of four), Essex (245) beat Sussex (4) by ten wickets.

Sussex: First Innings 140 (A P Cowan 5 for 45, N F Williams 4 for 25).

Second Innings

N J Latham not out 60
R A Ross c Gooch b Cowan 50
N R Taylor c Cowan b Such 37
C W J Affley bowled b Grayson 1
D L Kemp c Kilken b Defries 36
R J Parry c Kilken b Defries 12
M Newell c Cowan 29
V J Morris c Cowan 4
V J Morris c Cowan 4
A Khan c D R Lane b Kent 12
Extras (lb 7, w 3, nb 18) 28
Total (17 wickets, 110.2 overs) 321

FALL OF WICKETS 1-25, 2-150, 3-177, 4-216, 5-216, 6-254, 7-254, 8-254, 9-254

BOWLING: Cowan 19-1-78-4, Williams 22-2-77-1, Latham 19-1-70-2, Such 23-4-61-1, S G Lee 12-1-42-0, Grayson 25-7-56-1

Essex: First Innings 384 (R C Kent 110, R J Rolles 82)

Warwickshire v Derbyshire

EDGBASTON (third day of four), Warwickshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 121 runs ahead of Derbyshire.

Derbyshire: First Innings 200 (V P Clarke 68, N M K Smith 4 for 37, D R Brown 4 for 32).

Warwickshire: First Innings

N V Knight c Kilken b Malcom 13
A J Miles c Kilken b Defries 83
D L Kemp c Kilken b Defries 36
R J Parry c Kilken b Defries 12
M Newell c Cowan 29
V J Morris c Cowan 4
V J Morris c Cowan 4
A Khan c D R Lane b Kent 12
Extras (lb 7, w 3, nb 18) 28
Total (17 wickets, 110.2 overs) 321

FALL OF WICKETS 1-25, 2-150, 3-177, 4-216, 5-216, 6-254, 7-254, 8-254, 9-254

BOWLING: Malcom 25-2-74-4, Harris 24-10-101-0, Defries 21-4-68-2, Clarke 13-2-29-1, Blackwell 6-2-13-0

Bonus points: Warwickshire 7, Derbyshire 0. Umpires: N T Paves and R Palmer

University match

Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

THE PARKS (first day of three), Oxford University won 200, Nottinghamshire have scored 354 for four wickets against Oxford University.

Nottinghamshire: First Innings

P R Robson not out 115
R T Robinson b Ayres 4
M P Downman c Hudson b Patel 4
A Meiselle c Hudson b Patel 4
G F Archer not out 78
N A Gie c Soma b Ayres 50
T L N P Walker not out 42
Extras (lb 10, w 4, nb 8) 26
Total (4 wickets down) 324

FALL OF WICKETS 1-11, 2-30, 3-218, 4-243

BOWLING: Ayres 18-2-74-2, Patel 21-3-53-1, Sutarjee 20-3-51-0, Wagh 24-6-50-0, Byrne 8-0-19-1, Fulton 1-0-5-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: N C Parky, B W Byrne, M A Wagh, C G R Lightfoot, P G Morgan, J A G Fulton, R D Hudson, C Patel, J H M Ayres, T A P Soma, C M Batarbee, Umpires: K E Palmer and P Wiley

HYDERABAD: One-day international, Pakistan 338-7 (Inzamam-ul-Haq 71, Salam Mubeen 64, Raza 50, India 68-0, Match abandoned due to poor light and heavy rain. Final of the three-nation tournament will be between India and Pakistan in Hyderabad today.

Jordan extends legend by leading Bulls to their fifth championship in seven years

St Michael brings latest version of gospel to people

Michael Jordan's locker is the one nearest the door. There is nothing to show that the tiny cubicle belongs to the man whom many view as the greatest sportsman in the world. It is no different to any of the other 20 in the Chicago Bulls locker-room at the elegant United Center, situated starkly in the wasteland outside the city.

An hour before the sixth game of the National Basketball Association finals against Utah Jazz, a series that the Bulls lead 3-2, one victory away from a fifth championship in seven years, the locker-room is crisscrossed with reporters. Players come and go, but all are allowed to pass. Even Dennis Rodman, the outlandish Bulls forward who has just been fined \$50,000 (£30,000) for making abusive remarks about the Mormon church, is allowed free passage. Everybody is waiting for Michael — and it is Michael, they want, not Jordan, or Mr Jordan. For reporters, television interviewers, advertisers and basketball enthusiasts alike, he is just Michael.

At last, 45 minutes before tip-off, he appears through the door next to his locker, still fully dressed in an elegant, no doubt immensely expensive pastel blue cotton suit. Finding the room still stuffed with the people who haunt his every minute, he spins on his heel and sets off whence he came.

"Michael," someone shouts hastily. "How do you feel?" He replies without turning his head. "Terrific."

That one word shoots around the stadium and far beyond, relayed by word of mouth, by television and radio. It even shows up in the newspapers the next day, long after the Bulls have won the game 90-86 and with it the championship.

Michael's health matters. Two days earlier, while suffering from a violent stomach upset, he had scored 38 points, including a decisive thrust for the final score, to defeat the Jazz in Salt Lake City, where the home team had won all ten of their previous play-off games. Even those used to seeing Michael's extraordinary feats had marvelled at this one.

After it, Jerry Sloan, the Jazz coach, shook his head wearily. "He's not going to let them lose," he said. The implication was clear. If an ailing Michael could do that in Utah, a terrific one in Chicago was going to be unstoppable.

So it proved on Friday night. This time, he scored 39 points, and in the final seconds, with the score 86-86, he gave some measure of his stature as the greatest basketball player who ever lived. Even for the Bulls, a team full of dazzling talents such as Rodman and Scottie Pippen, there is only one tactic when it comes to the crunch: "Give it to Michael."



Keith Blackmore, in Chicago, sees a remarkable sportsman write another chapter in NBA history

Twice, though, the Jazz had been beaten by Michael's last-second heroics, and they were prepared this time. As he bore down on them, John Stockton abandoned his marking duties and rushed to double-team him. Even Michael could not score with four arms in his face.

So, instead, with less than ten seconds left, he did something else. He made as if to shoot, then, with one of his characteristic and mesmerising flourishes, passed to Steve Kerr, a journeyman bench player who had played so poorly in the fourth game that his wife had told Michael that he had been unable to sleep since.

Stockton's dash to Michael had left Kerr all alone, in front of the hoop. For a fraction of a second, the roar was hushed. Kerr shot, the ball swished through the net and the game, the series, the championship, was won. "I'm so happy for Steve," Michael said. "I'm glad he made that shot because, if he had missed it, he wouldn't have been able to sleep all summer."

Naturally, Michael, not Kerr, was voted the most valuable player (MVP) in the finals. The Bulls have appeared in five finals and won them all, and Michael has been

MVP in each. The NBA, the American television networks and the supporters know his true worth. Jordan is to basketball what W. G. Grace is to cricket, what Babe Ruth is to baseball, what Jack Nicklaus is to golf. The NBA is 50 years old this year. It is a fledgling in comparison with baseball and golf, but Jordan has made it a powerhouse in the sports marketplace.

When, in 1994, he announced his bizarre decision to retire and take up baseball, the whole sport, not just the Bulls, suffered. In the film, *Space Jam*, Jordan's break is accounted for by his being abducted by Bugs Bunny to fight some inter-Galactic basketball-playing aliens. It is by no means the least credible explanation of why he suddenly and briefly gave up the game that he helped to popularise.

His absence was no laughing matter for the sport. Even David Stern, the NBA commissioner, admitted that the finals were not so much fun. The time is coming, though, when the NBA and Chicago will have to learn to live without him. He is 34 and his one-year contract with the Bulls, paying him \$30 million, is up for renewal.

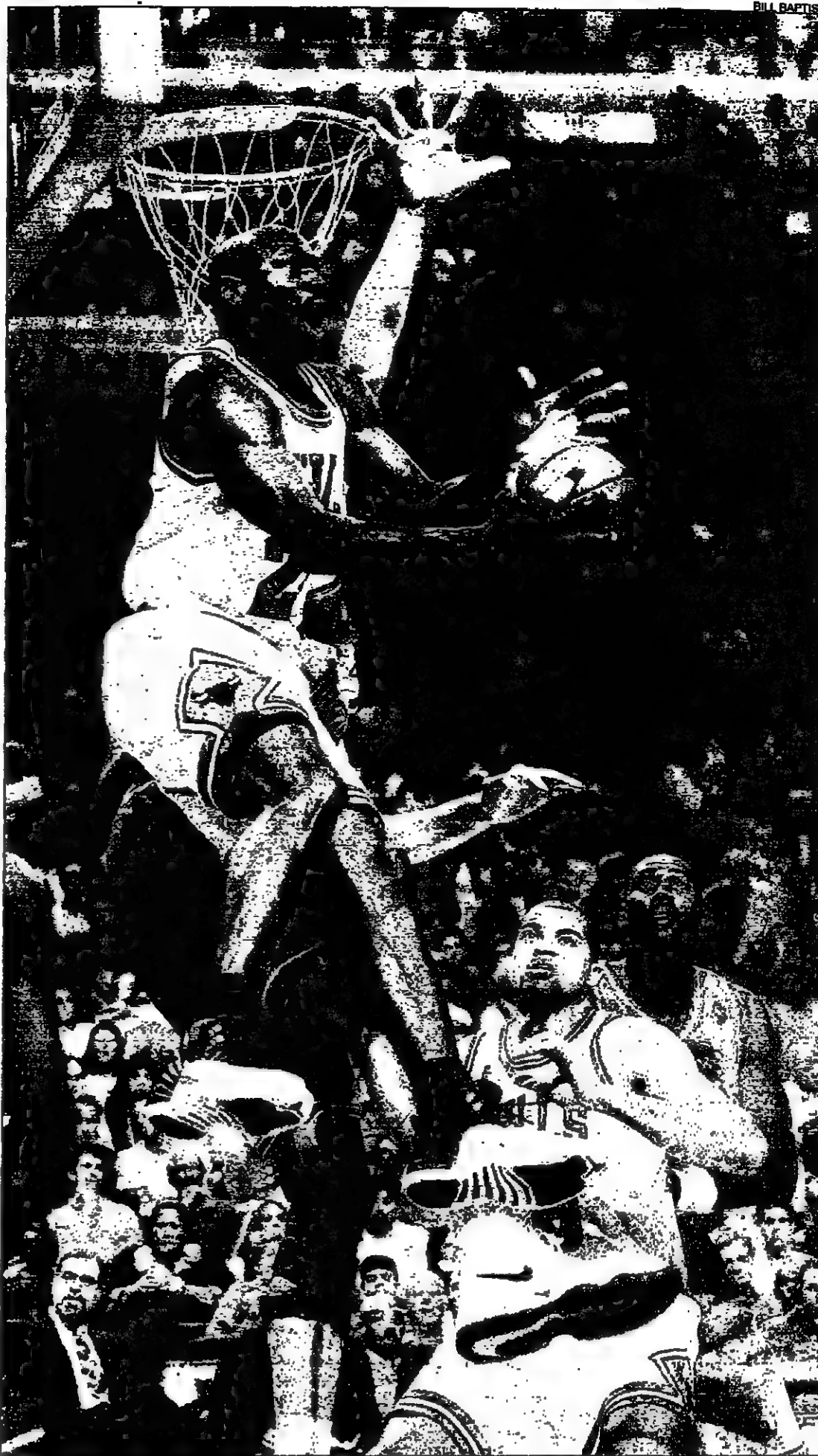
Next year, he is thought to want \$36 million and the pay increase is unlikely to be a stumbling block. The real threat to the Bulls dynasty is one of personality. Jordan wants the Bulls to keep Phil Jackson, the coach who has led the team to all five championships, but Jackson appears to have fallen out with Jerry Krause, the man who built the team. Jackson earned \$2.75 million this season but his contract, too, is up. Already, he has declined an offer thought to be worth more than \$30 million to coach Orlando Magic for five years.

Jordan has threatened to retire again, or, far worse, go somewhere else, if Jackson is not retained. "I think this team is entitled to an opportunity to continue to be successful," he said. "We are entitled to defend what we have and Phil should be the coach and I shouldn't have to make the decision about whether to play for a new coach." Jerry Reinsdorf, the owner of the Bulls, must decide, but, if he lets Jordan escape, he will never be able to show his face in Chicago again.

Jordan is everywhere here: on television, billboards, cereal boxes. His face, his name, his number, 23, are inescapable. Nike has even built



Jordan in familiar pose with the NBA championship trophy



Jordan jumps for a reverse lay-up in the decisive sixth game of the finals, in which he scored 39 points

a kind of shrine to him on the Magnificent Mile, the main shopping street. Groups of visitors tour NikeTown, a glorified superstore, with the hushed reverence usually reserved for museums.

Jordan has given this city a new image. In the aftermath of victory, R. C. Longworth, writing in the

Chicago Tribune, rejoiced that Michael had replaced Al Capone and the gangsters of the Prohibition era. "The city's symbol is no longer a syphilitic capo and his henchman but a state athlete, unquestionably the best in his business."

Even if Reinsdorf keeps him, the Bulls and the NBA must sooner or

later face a future without him. However difficult it is to bear, his retirement may not be an entirely bad thing. There is a danger that he has become simply too good. As Pat Riley, the coach of Miami Heat, said: "Nobody is going to close the gap on the Bulls until Michael retires."

ROWING

London on top form as Henley approaches

By Mike Roswell
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

WITH the Henley Regatta entry closing this week, many senior crews at Reading Regatta on Saturday were racing to catch the Henley Stewards' eyes to avoid a Royal Regatta qualifying race or even to be considered as a Henley "selected" crew.

London RC's first eight, stroked by Stuart Simms and a Thames Cup entry at Henley, recorded the two fastest times, 3min 15sec, over the 1,200-metre course in beating Reading RC and Upper Thames in the semi-final and final, respectively, of the Elite eights. The verdict in the final was comfortable, although Upper Thames made an appeal for interference that was turned down by the umpire.

Radley and St Edward's, Oxford, presumably high on the list for "selected" status in the Henley Schools event with National Schools and Schools Head wins behind them, won the senior 1 and senior 2 eights, but other schools were on a par, or faster, on the day, notably Shrewsbury. They clocked 5min 10sec in a tough junior final against Hampton, and Abingdon — who were overlapping St Edward's at the line in the senior 2 final and subsequently put in an unsuccessful appeal against the St Edward's steering early in the race.

Potential Henley Regatta fours from Molesey reached the finals of the elite coxed and coxless classes. They won the coxed with something to spare, but the coxless, with Richard Stanhope, the Great Britain rower, on board, lost to Worcester in a fast final.

Scullers from Leander had a good day, headed by Gavin Smith, who was still debating early on Saturday whether to enter the Diamonds at Henley. He had his mind made up when he won the elite singles, with ease and in a fast time, from Dave Smith, the former-junior international, of Bristol University.

Groton School, from the United States, who are over for the Henley Women's Regatta next weekend, won the women's senior three and junior eights on Saturday, Andy Anderson, their coach, then sportingly volunteering to move the crew up a class for the sprint regatta yesterday. Bristol University produced the fastest women's eight time of the day in beating Kingston Grammar in the senior 2 final, although the young Kingston crew had only 20 minutes respite after winning the senior 1.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

CRICKET

Test: England v Australia

Leicester: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

Leicester: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

Leicester: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

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RUGBY LEAGUE: ONE-SIDED WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES LEAVE WEAKNESSES IN BRITISH GAME CRUELLY EXPOSED

Changes fall short of necessary revolution



Walker: radical

Although radical at first glance, the recommendations of a working party, which include a return from three to two professional divisions and a reduction from 34 to 28 clubs by the 1999 season, do not go far enough in the light of the discrepancies in the standards of British and Australian rugby league raised by the world club championship.

The report by Sir Rodney Walker, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chairman, written before the championship started, was distributed to clubs last week. Only those suffering from myopia and motivated by self-interest could find fault with the basic tenet that some form of streamlining is necessary and that minimum standards must be met, in order for the game to develop and prosper.

Unfortunately, the world championship has highlighted more dead wood than the report suggests cutting out. No mergers would be forced on clubs, the cause of so much public opprobrium when the Super League revolution erupted two years ago. Rather, it would be a process of stealth with those clubs deemed surplus to requirements consigned to a new, part-time third tier of leading National Conference teams.

The implications for some clubs would be clear. Others might be motivated to combine resources, the obvious ones being Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers, Salford and Winton, Widnes and Warrington and Leeds and Bramley, who already share Headingley. Merger discussions between clubs in Cumbria and elsewhere are taking place, with the obvious incentive that the £87 million from the Super League deal would be spread across a smaller base.

Christopher Irvine believes that new report does not go far enough

Recommendations on minimum capacities of 10,000 for Super League clubs and 6,000-7,000 for first division clubs merely reiterate minimum standards guidelines, issued in January 1996 in the *Framing the Future* document, that some clubs have chosen to ignore. These would become mandatory requirements if the 28 clubs were to operate on a franchise basis. Sir Rodney's report, which will be considered by club chairmen on Wednesday week, is also implicit in wanting to reduce the influence of the RFL chief executive position, which is

held by Maurice Lindsay. Instead of one person being responsible for all decisions, associate directors in charge of financial, disciplinary, legal and marketing matters would be given decision-making powers, while an additional operational board of directors would oversee day-to-day running.

The report does not address the overseas quota issue, but Sir Rodney agreed yesterday that six foreign players per club were too many. "There are some notable exceptions, but a lot of southern hemisphere players now based here were second-liners in the competitions over there," he said. "In many cases, they are 10 better than our players. I

suspected that wins from our sides would be rare in the world club championship, but the scale of some of the defeats has surprised me. Perhaps the British teams have one or two players of real class, but the Australians have five, six and more. In our competition, we still have 20-25 exceptional players. The trouble is that there is a rumour of perhaps 200 in Australia."

Were Sir Rodney's recommendations to be rejected next week by the Rugby League Council, the need for change is now so apparent that the game's progressive wing would not stop there. The figure of 28 clubs in the report suggests a 14-14 split, except that the world championship results have highlighted that talent is spread too thinly, in which case a ten or even eight-team Super League by 1999 would be one solution.

With discussions between the RFL and the British Amateur Rugby League Association edging towards a joint youth commission, better and more sustained grassroots development would be a starting point. The work necessary showed again yesterday in the 66-20 beating taken by London Broncos at Canberra and Halifax's simultaneous 58-6 loss at Canterbury in Australia, where crowds have slumped in proportion to the lack of competitiveness offered by British sides, with the exception of Wigan.

The burden on Wigan, solitary British winners in the first round, falls on them again when they play Brisbane Broncos today. Not even a repeat of their 1994 World Club challenge win there would hide the overall embarrassment felt by the British game.

Ecclestone's plan to float ready to stall on the grid

FEW can be envying Christian Purslow at the moment. Purslow, the London-based managing director of Salomon Brothers International, the American investment bankers, knew that he was not taking on an easy task when he agreed to float Formula One Holdings, which is controlled by Bernie Ecclestone.

However, so many stumbling-blocks have been placed in his way since the float was first suggested in the spring that the expected announcement today that the £1.5 billion share issue will not be launched until September will not be a surprise. Indeed, there will be some relief that Purslow thinks that the float can be achieved at all.

The fact is that Ecclestone has created a highly valuable business out of the inefficiencies of the sport. The people who run motor-racing teams are interested in getting the cars on to the circuits in the best condition with the best drivers.

Their interest in the money side is largely focused on raising enough finance to pay for a winning team. This mostly comes from sponsorship deals and the sponsors were brought in by the wide exposure that Formula One gets through a worldwide television audience running into hundreds of millions.

Meanwhile, Ecclestone was able to handle the talks with television companies and the owners of the racing tracks. This allowed him to make a nice turn on the negotiations — last year his business brought in £200 million and, even after he had handed over a share to the teams and the tracks, he was left with £85 million, out of which he paid himself a salary of £54 million.

Formula One Holdings,



which is registered in the United Kingdom these days, has a 25-year contract to run the sport with the FIA, its governing body, which in turn will have a 10 per cent stake in Formula One. However, it has had all sorts of trouble getting all ten leading teams to sign up to the so-called Concord agreement on the division of the television income, which is expected to grow significantly with the introduction of pay-per-view television.

Three in particular — Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell — have been holding out for a bigger share. It is still not clear whether they have actually signed up yet, but Formula One cannot even think of floating with this issue outstanding.

There is a feeling that the teams have missed a trick. There is no reason why Ecclestone, 67, still has to be at the centre of the sport. Another middleman could come in and organise a rival Formula One competition and, if McLaren and Williams dropped out of Ecclestone's circus, would it be as attractive? Also, how many other teams might go and sign up to a rival?

Ecclestone claims the support of Ferrari, but last week had a good go at shooting himself in the foot. He had been particularly strong in his objections to bans on tobacco advertising and, in an interview, said that he would cancel the Italian and San Marino Grands Prix if tobacco advertising was banned in Italy. If he goes, it is hard to see Ferrari being as enthusiastic about Formula One.

Adding to the woes are Formula One's German troubles, which include speculation that it may have to renegotiate its German television deals, worth more than £20 million a year, because of internal problems at Kirch, its German partner.

The sport is now looking towards the Far East for its future, with Malaysia and Thailand appearing to be prime locations for new dates in the grand-prix calendar. However, if the sport moves from its European base, will it lose its character?

Ecclestone and Purslow are playing a dangerous game by floating Formula One, but by trying to crystallise the full value of the goose that lays the golden egg, they may be in danger of killing it.

JASON NISSE

Warrington overrun by talent of Girdler

Warrington Wolves 22
Penrith Panthers 52

BY A CORRESPONDENT

RYAN GIRDLER yesterday became the latest Australian to make a name for himself at the expense of British rugby league. Girdler may be lacking in widespread recognition on his own home soil, but he will be remembered for a long time in Warrington.

True to form, Australia added another huge win to their collection — the sixteenth in 17 cross-hemisphere games. It is difficult to find any crumbs of comfort for a British challenge that is becoming more demoralised with every world club championship game.

Warrington fell behind after eight minutes when Girdler set up the first of two tries for Robbie Beckett. Beckett's second after 13 minutes stretched the lead to 8-0 and Girdler added the extra points.

It was then that Girdler, almost single-handedly, took over. He scored his first try after 16 minutes when he intercepted a pass by Kelly Shelduff inside his own half and raced to the posts unopposed. Seven minutes later he followed a kick from Steve Carter to touch down.

Jody Gall added another try for Penrith after half an hour and only then did Warrington look like making a game of it. Tries from Sean Geritas and Mark Forster gave the home supporters some comfort, which was further sustained when Toe Kobe Love scored in the corner.

It did not last. Another Shelduff pass went astray and Andrew Hinson crossed for Penrith. With Girdler kicking the goal and then adding a try shortly after, the contest was as good as over. Danny Farrar took Penrith further out of sight before Willie Swann brought Warrington back into the picture with a scrambled try. However, Penrith had the last word when Darren Brown's try took them to the half-century.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: M Forster, Geritas, Kobe Love, Swann. Goals: Beckett (2). Penrith Panthers: Tries: Girdler (2), Beckett (2), Brown, Farrar, Gall, Hinson, Geritas, Girdler (7). Dances.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: C. Rudd, J. Roper, S. Pinna, N. Vagana, M. Forster, K. Shelduff, L. Brown, G. Charters, W. Swann, W. Stevens, G. Mann, J. Tanapu, P. Scullion, P. Substitutes: J. Thompson, S. Geritas, C. Houghton, T. Kobe Love.

PENRITH PANTHERS: P. Jorgensen, R. Beckett, S. Domes, R. Girdler, A. Hinson, S. Geritas, C. Houghton, D. Forster, C. Adams, J. Gall, D. MacGillivray, D. Brown, Substitutes: B. Boyd, D. Alexander, B. Thompson, B. Drew.

Referee: R. Connolly (Wigan)

Auckland turn the world on its head

Bradford Bulls 16
Auckland Warriors 20

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT REALLY is an upside down world when the bottom club in the Australasian Super League can overturn the leaders in Europe and, moreover, do it while being one player short for 42 minutes. Something is amiss when 12 men can vanquish 13. Perhaps it is a further unpalatable truth about the gulf between northern and southern hemispheres in the world club championship.

At the end of a further bitter British disappointment on Saturday night, one was suggested the opposition should continue losing players until an even contest was produced. Given the gross imbalance, especially of results in Australia, maybe a nine or ten-man Antipodean team would still be too much for a savaged European contingent to handle.

Auckland had enjoyed a handful of satisfactory wins in their brief history, but none as memorable as this one at a partisan Odsal Stadium. When Eru wrapped his arm around Hodgson's throat in the 39th minute, his malleable action looked to have dealt with his team's chances as effectively as the manner in which he had poleaxed the young Bradford wing.

Defensively, Auckland were everywhere, while in attack they made a nonsense of their numerical disadvantage to exploit gaps and create scoring opportunities, delighting their coach, Frank Endacott. "It was our greatest win in three years as a club and to do it with 12 men made it even better," he said. "We knew we'd have to work overtime and we did that. Every player emerged with credit. We came of age."

The Warriors have struggled in winning only three



Medley, of Bradford Bulls, finds that there is no hiding place as he is tackled from all sides by the Auckland defence

times in their domestic season, yet in the space of nine days they have trounced St Helens, the Challenge Cup holders, and beaten Bradford, whose only consolation, such as it is, was that they have at least been competitive in losing twice by the same narrow scoreline. The match against Cronulla next Friday, which appears to be by far the hardest of the three games, might be a case of damage limitation.

That a relatively poor team in the Australasian competition can look like world beaters in Britain merely highlights the class divide. The Auckland game was a "banker" for Bradford. As they found against Penrith six days before, chances came and went. Whereas the opposition swiftly moved the ball wide, Bradford sluggishly ploughed down the middle and, apart from a surging run to the line by Bradley early in the second half, they waited desperately for finishing pace.

In running away at the top of the Super League, Bradford have been able to shrug off a long injury list, but not so at this level. Their side was misshapen and they carried

too many passengers. Paul is obviously not yet fit and McDermott and Peacock, too, struggled on Saturday. Without Paul's inspirational spark, and with McNamara and Tomlinson subdued and wayward, the Bulls were never likely to explode.

Errors and missed tackles undermined the home team, who never fully recovered from the ease with which Kearney, the inspirational Auckland second-row forward, squeezed out a scoring pass to the electric Jones, in the fourth minute, despite being wrapped up by three

tacklers. Eru's dismissal and Bradley's subsequent try fuelled a false sense of expectation.

During a 10-minute period in which both sides were one man short — McNamara having been sin binned for a professional foul — Ridge scored wide on the right. Auckland's advantage was short-lived, as the determination of Forshaw carried him through a thicket of defenders. When McNamara returned, his third goal briefly gave Bradford the lead. It disappeared five minutes from the finish, as Knox lost possession and Ngamu's long pass found Staladi, unmarked and in an acre of space. Although he missed the conversion, Ridge could not fall from in front of the posts with a last-minute penalty.

SO SCORERS: Bradford: Tries: Bradley, Forshaw, Geritas, McNamara (2), Loughran. Goals: Ridge (4). Auckland: Tries: Jones, Ridge, Staladi. Goals: Ridge (4).

BRADFORD BULLS: D. Peacock, M. Coland, R. Loughran, G. Bradley, A. Hodgson, R. Paul, G. Tomlinson, J. Redfern, J. Jones, S. McDermott, M. Forshaw, P. Medley, S. McNamara, Substitutes: J. Winterton, N. Graham, S. Knox, P. Anderson. AUCKLAND WARRIORS: M. Ridge, S. Forshaw, T. Forshaw, S. Endacott, P. Staladi, G. Hoggins, A. Jones, J. Vagana, S. Eru, B. Medley, A. Tuimaseva, S. Kearney, D. Bell, Substitutes: M. Hoggins, S. Hoggins, L. Swann, M. Nooroo.

Referee: R. Smith (Cardiff).

New boy finds himself with a hard act to follow

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS asking a lot of Sean Long against Cronulla tonight to fill the boots at scrum half of Bobbie Goulding, 48 hours after his £80,000 move from Widnes to St Helens, who urgently need to expunge the memory of a 42-14 defeat by Auckland in their opening world club championship match.

Long, 20, moved to Widnes from Wigan at the start of the season and now finds himself at Knowsley Road as a replacement for Goulding, who underwent a hernia operation last

week and will be out for at least three weeks. Long will be partnered at half back by the experienced Karie Hammond, who has missed two matches with pneumonia. Andy Leatham returns to the front row.

Cronulla comfortably won at Warrington in their first match and the long list of St Helens' absences make them firm favourites to continue the Australasian domination of the competition tonight.

Canberra fell a try short of equalling their 70 points record against Halifax the previous week, although they still managed 11 in a

66-20 rout of London Broncos at Bruce Stadium yesterday. Laurie Daley, the scorer of three tries, and Brett Mullins, who claimed two, both exceeded the club record tally of 75 tries held by Mal Meninga, now the Canberra coach, while David Furner's 11 goals exceeded his previous best of ten.

All but one of Canberra's tries was scored by the backs. Ruben Wiki and Ken Nagas, who scored six tries in the match against Halifax, touched down twice as the London defence was ripped apart. Early tries by Martin Offiah and Scott Rossell had

put the Broncos briefly ahead, before the floodgates opened. Three tries were conceded while Terry Matterson, who added a late consolation try, was in the sin bin.

After a reasonably encouraging display the week before at Brisbane, Tony Currie, the London coach, was highly critical. "Our defence was abysmal," he said. "The competition is a good idea. Australian clubs should be playing their British counterparts, but it should be restricted to the top couple of teams from each hemisphere."

The only Halifax try, in a 58-6

mauling at Sydney-based Canterbury, was scored by Michael Jackson a few minutes before the end. The crowd at Belmore Oval was only 5,000, the lowest this season.

Karl Harrison, the Halifax captain, said: "It confirmed what we all know, that the British game is a long way behind. We'll go back to Britain in a week's time knowing we've advanced our learning by 18 months. The intensity of the game in Australia and the speed of the play-the-ball have been the decisive factor in our defeats and those of other British clubs."

Adding to the woes are Formula One's German troubles, which include speculation that it may have to renegotiate its German television deals, worth more than £20 million a year, because of internal problems at Kirch, its German partner.

The sport is now looking towards the Far East for its future, with Malaysia and Thailand appearing to be prime locations for new dates in the grand-prix calendar. However, if the sport moves from its European base, will it lose its character?

Ecclestone and Purslow are playing a dangerous game by floating Formula One, but by trying to crystallise the full value of the goose that lays the golden egg, they may be in danger of killing it.

JASON NISSE

HOCKEY

England blow hot and cold to finish second

ENGLAND managed a 2-2 draw with South Africa to finish as runners-up to Holland in the Rabobank international tournament at the Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen, Holland, yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes).

Holland, who defeated England 5-0 on Saturday, brought the tournament to a colourful end with a 4-0 victory over Pakistan before a crowd of 5,000.

England blew hot and cold against South Africa, who saved the match in the last 20 seconds with a goal by Nicol. South Africa snatched the lead in the third minute after a mix-up in the England defence allowed Cullen to set up the chance for Craig Fulton to score.

England then lost their way and, if the South Africans had experienced better luck, they

might have ended the first half three goals ahead. England, however, seized the initiative in the second half and, within five minutes, Wyatt levelled the score on the rebound from a short corner. South Africa were soon in disarray after Clark and Craig Fulton were put under suspension for dangerous tackling.

A goal by Giles, from a short corner in the 66th minute put England 2-1 ahead, but in the dying seconds, Nicol broke through to score.

Pakistan were outrun by Holland, who led 1-0 at the interval with a goal by van Wijk. Lomans converted two short corners in the second half to finish top scorer with seven goals. A brilliant goal by Veen in the 68th minute completed the scoring.

Gollob leaves rivals in wake

BY TONY HOARE

TOMASZ GOLLOB scored a thrilling victory in the second round of the world championship grand prix in Linköping, Sweden, on Saturday. Gollob, from Poland, swept past Greg Hancock, the winner of the Czech grand prix last month, in a final to claim his first victory since 1995.

Hancock, from the United States, finished second to retain his lead in the grand prix standings, but acknowledged that the night had belonged to Gollob, 26, who started the meeting with four straight wins to all but secure a place in the decisive A final.

Gollob has shaken off a reputation for being erratic, although his fifth ride had the hallmarks of the old style as he missed bends to finish third, behind Hans Nielsen and Peter Karlsson.

However, he still had first

choice of starting position for the final and opted for the outside line. After a quick start, he stayed wide and picked up enough drive to power past Hancock and collect 25 points.

Gollob has never ridden in the British League, unlike the majority of grand prix riders, and he said that the victory proved the strength of the Polish League set-up, which draws the biggest crowds in the world.

"The Polish League is the hardest in the world, and this win will be a motivation and inspiration for my friends and colleagues who race in the league," Gollob said.

The meeting marked the return to form of Nielsen, who has won the world championship four times. He finished fourth to improve on his tenth place in Prague last month.

It was a frustrating night, though, for Billy Hamill, the defending champion, from the United States. In one race, he went from first to last and ended up in the B final, finishing seventh.

Hancock, the series leader and Hamill's stablemate with Team Eddie, said: "Billy was unlucky tonight, but he has great inner strength and he will not let this get to him."

Mikael Karlsson, who rides for Wolverhampton in the Elite League, was taken to hospital for a precautionary check on a chest injury after crashing in his final qualifying ride.

GRAND PRIX POSITIONS (after two rounds): 1. G Hancock (USA) 50pts; 2. T Gollob (Pol) 43; 3. B Hamill (GB) 32; 4. T Richardson (Swe) 25; 5. H Nielsen (Den) 24; 6. B Anderson (Den) 22; 7. M Lomax (GB) 20; 8. J Nielsen (Swe) 20; 9. S Drake (Pol) 18; 10. H Gustafsson (Swe) 17; 11. C Lous (GB) 16; 12. P Karlsson (Swe) 15; 13. L Kearns (Aus) 12; 14. A Smith (GB) 8; 15. J Clump (Aus) 6; 16. S Wigg (GB) 3.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Offensive limitations costly for Monarchs

LONDON Monarchs ended their season with another close home game that illustrated their prime deficiency, a lack of offensive power (Richard Wetherell writes). In all but three of their ten games they have scored ten points or less. Their defence has managed to keep them in contention in most games, but with little to defend, they have occasionally folded.

The 10-7 defeat by Rhein Fire at Stamford Bridge yesterday was a fitting end and meant that they finished with a 4-6 record for the third successive year. The Monarchs rarely reached the Fire's half. One of the few times they did move the ball, they built a 7-3 half-time lead as Michael Tildy caught a 38-yard touchdown pass.

The only scoring in the second half came from Der-

rick Clark's one-yard run, which ensured that the Fire ended top of the World League with a 7-3 record, and they will play in their first World Bowl in Barcelona on Sunday.

Scottish Claymores' remote chance of defending their title was destroyed by Barcelona Dragons on Saturday. The Dragons' 48-18 victory meant that they halted their recent fall from grace and that the two teams with the best record will be in the final.

Since qualifying to host the World Bowl in the first half of the season, the Dragons had lost four consecutive matches, but they bounced back in some style, with Jon Kitna throwing five touchdown passes. The only highlight for the Claymores was a 95-yard kick-off return by Eric Smith.

RUGBY UNION

Howley's enforced departure tears at heart of Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS IN CAPE TOWN

A DEFIANT Robert Howley left South Africa for home last night predicting that the British Isles would win the international series 2-1. The sadness is that, if the Lions are to live up to that, they must do so without Howley, who started this tour as one of their very few world-class players but who will now spend the next four months regaining fitness after dislocating his shoulder against Natal.

Nor could the Lions easily lay hands on his replacement, Kyran Bracken. The Saracens scrum half, who re-established his England career in Argentina this month, started a holiday in Tobago over the weekend and could not initially be located.

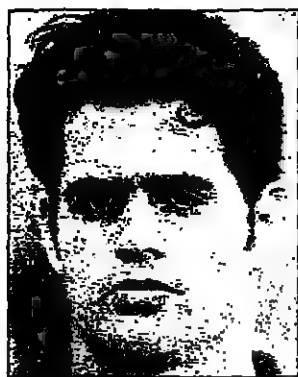
However, he is due at Heathrow today and will leave this evening in the hope of attending the game in Wellington tomorrow against the Emerging Springboks.

The loss of Howley, 26, is substantial. The combination of a clever rugby brain and great pace had already shown itself on tour, most notably against Western Province on May 31.

His joust with Joost van der Westhuizen in the three-match series, which begins at Newlands here on Saturday, was eagerly awaited by the rugby public. "It's a shame I won't have the chance to pit my ability against him. It would have been a great contest," Howley said wistfully.

The two players, who opposed each other when Wales played South Africa in December last year, have similar attributes but on that occasion Howley had to play behind the losing forwards. Here, the Lions' pack will hope to establish parity at the very least but it is likely that Matt Dawson will operate the scrum, in harness with his Northampton colleague, Gregor Townsend.

"No one was concerned about the result against Natal, only about my shoulder," Howley, whose family — in-



Bracken: replacement

cluding his fiancée, Ceri — were due to arrive in Cape Town on Thursday, said. "That summed up for me the Lions ethos and how we have all come together over the last five weeks."

The injury, to the left shoulder, happened when Howley darted from a ruck at King's Park on Saturday, went to ground and opponents fell over him. He carried on for four minutes in the hope that he could play through it, but the first pass off his left hand told him the injury was too serious.

He is the fourth player forced out of this tour, after Paul Grayson, Daddie Weir and Scott Quinnell, but with respect to his three colleagues, probably the first international certainty.

"It's the biggest disappointment in my career so far and probably will be in my whole career not to have the chance to play in a Test," Howley, who bruised the same shoulder during the domestic season, said.

SOUTH AFRICA

British Isles, Cape Town, June 21
A Joubert (Natal), J T Small (Western Province), J C Mulder (Gauteng), E Lubbe (Gauteng West), A H Bryman (Northern Transvaal), H W Horrell (Natal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), J P du Randt (Free State), A E Drost (Free State), A C Garvey (Natal), R J Kruger (Northern Transvaal), M G Andrews (Natal), J J Steyn (Gauteng), A G Verter (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain), R Kooze (Natal), R G Barendse (Gauteng), H Wessels (Gauteng West), W Swane-pool (Free State), K Otto (Northern Transvaal), J Dalton (Gauteng), D P Treweek (Gauteng West)

der during the domestic season, said.

"All the hard work of six or seven years has come to a very disappointing end." He is due to see a specialist on Wednesday and will hope that, whatever operation is required, the recovery period will not bite too deeply into the new season with Cardiff. Howley's departure leaves three England scrum halves to shoulder the burden, though Andy Gomersall, who played through most of last season, is not one of them.

Bracken, 25 and capped 14 times, was preferred to Paul John, of Wales, and Bryan Redpath, of Scotland, partly because he has played international rugby within the past ten days but also because his running style will complement Ian McGeechan's pattern of play. "He's got good hands and he'll be on the same lines as the scrum halves we have here," the coach said after the party's arrival in Cape Town last night. "He was very close to selection in the original party anyway."

The Lions, still pondering their options in the front row, back row and midfield, may not announce their side to play South Africa until the day of the game. They see no value in offering additional information to their opponents. "You try to get an edge wherever you can," Fran Cotton, the manager, said. "We are playing against the world champions on their own turf and you can't get harder than that."

South Africa, as expected, named a XV yesterday including Mark Andrews at lock instead of Fritz van Heerden from the side that bulldozed Tonga 74-10 last Tuesday. Van Heerden has a hip injury and may yet be joined on the sidelines by Gary Teichmann, the captain, and James Small. Both men will have fitness tests today on hamstring injuries and Carel du Plessis, the coach, will want to know sooner rather than later whether they must be replaced.



Strudwick, left, of Natal, fails to halt the progress of Shaw, the British Isles lock forward, who leads yet another charge at King's Park

Lions maintain their momentum

Natal Sharks..... 12
British Isles XV..... 42

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

THE British Isles negotiated the third and final leg of a potentially hazardous week with some style at King's Park on Saturday, but there can be no denying that the loss of Robert Howley removed much of the pleasure from their achievement. Nevertheless, such is the cohesiveness of this Lions party that, within minutes of the diagnosis being made on Howley's dislocated shoulder, the management was emphasising its faith in his English colleagues.

That Howley would have been the scrum half against South Africa next Saturday but for the injury that he

suffered in the eighth minute of the meeting with Natal on Saturday is not in question, yet Matt Dawson, in two matches, and Austin Healey, in one, have indicated their capacity to play with the same characteristics. The substantial difference with Howley is one of experience and judgment, and Dawson scores higher than Healey in that respect, as well as having swifter hands.

Injuries are part and parcel of touring, according to Fran Cotton, and the party that he manages has now suffered four, yet it was Natal themselves who showed how important the missing link can be, since Kevin Pitt might well have made more of the possession won by his forwards. Instead, Robert du Preez and Hans Striba found themselves hassled and harried to distraction by a Lions pack that scrummaged well and gave a youthful back row every trio chance to impose themselves.

Another opponent might have found time to test Neil Jenkins under the high ball, or to try to expose his pace over the ground, but not this Natal side, who played an almost English-style game of stop-start rugby. Their back division scarcely existed as an attacking threat, with Muller showing no outstanding reason for his selection in the national squad, save in defence.

Ian McIntosh, their coach, was inclined to blame his right-five forwards for a disappointing afternoon, one on which Natal's record of never beating the Lions seldom looked like ending, but neither their scrum nor lineout was so deficient that better half backs might not have made more of possession. Moreover, they enjoyed the benefit of the referee's interpretation of ruck ball in the first half, only to turn round 16-9 down against a side that sustained brilliantly its increasing reputation for a strong finish.

That was the aspect that brought Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, most pleasure.

Time and again, he has insisted that his players must be patient in their build-up. The previous Wednesday, it was that kind of approach that produced 16m 44sec of sustained play before Healey's game-breaking try against Gauteng in Johannesburg. Here, a similar rippling effect earned Lawrence Dallaglio the final try and took the Lions past 40 points for the second time on tour.

"I told Lawrence he could now consider himself a Lion because of the effort he put into that try," McGeechan said. "It was the last minute of the game, he had just made the play which freed the ball, yet he got off his backside to take part again when he was absolutely shattered." It was, indeed, a big game for Dallaglio, but no more so than for such players as Scott Gibbs and Jenkins, two Welshmen

who may well have pencilled their names into the XV for the first international.

Jenkins has openly admitted his disappointment not to have had more opportunities, but, building on his 24 minutes as a replacement against Gauteng, when he scored two critical goals, he has nearly made himself indispensable as a kicker. Not only did he score 24 points — he missed only twice — but he was also responsible for restarts and drop-outs, where he is far more reliable than Townsend.

The combination of these two at full back and stand-off half is not ideal because of Jenkins' limitations as a line-breaking runner, but it may be the best that these Lions have.

"Natal were short of six players, so we won't go overboard about scoring 40 points against them," Martin John-

son, the Lions captain, said pertinently. Here, the Lions did not play the fluid game that they have sought so far because Natal dominated possession initially and chose to play a more laboured game.

Lawless put his side ahead briefly with his first two penalty goals either side of one by Jenkins, but Townsend's dropped goal brought equality, and he then followed through a chip by Wood — who was blatantly late-tackled by Le Roux for his efforts — for the first of the Lions' three tries.

Lawless and Jenkins exchanged penalty goals before the interval, but thereafter Jenkins was given all the kicking practice that he required, four goals in succession being disrupted only by Lawless when the front rows, not for the first time, went down. Another referee might even have awarded a penalty try when Natal's scrum collapsed five metres out.

Instead, the tries came via the more conventional route. The Lions forwards drove and Townsend, recognising space brilliantly, kicked for Catt, a replacement for Bateman, to beat Payne to the touchdown. Evans created space for Hill and Catt to combine on the left before the Lions applied the final constricting squeeze, surging down the right before Dawson released Dallaglio to complete the destruction.

SCORERS: Natal Sharks: Penalty goals: Lawless (4), Catt (2); Tries: Townsend (2), Catt (2); Conversions: Jenkins (3); Penalty goals: Jenkins (3); Dropped goal: Townsend
NATAL SHARKS: G Lawless, S Payne, J Thompson, P Muller, J Joubert, H Striba, R du Preez, R Kempson, J Allen, A H de Roux, W van Heerden, N Wessels, J Striba, W Fries (captain), D Kiese, Van Heerden replaced by R Striba (2-12m, 30); Le Roux replaced by J Striba (17)
BRITISH ISLES XV: N Jenkins (Pontypool and Wales), I Evans (Llanelli and Wales), A Bateman (Rugby and Wales), S Gibbs (Saracens and Wales), A Tait (Newcastle and Scotland), G Townsend (Northampton and Scotland), R Howley (Cardiff and Wales), I Smith (Warrington and Scotland), K Wood (Harlequins and Ireland), D Young (Cardiff and Wales), L Dallaglio (Wales, and England), M Johnson (Leicester and England, captain), S Shaw (Bristol and England), R Hill (Scarlets and England), E Miller (Leicester and Ireland), Howley replaced by M Dawson (Northampton and England), R Bateman replaced by J M Catt (Bath and England, 67), Smith replaced by J Leonard (Harlequins and England), S R Williams (Walsingham Army and Scotland) temporary replacements for Johnson (26-32)
Referee: J Meunier (Eastern Province)



Howley leaves the field nursing his injured shoulder

Surgery hits veteran All Black

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL JONES, the New Zealand flanker, underwent knee surgery yesterday after suffering a severe injury during the 71-5 victory over Fiji in Auckland on Saturday.

The injury may signal the end of the player's career. At the very least, Jones, the veteran of 51 internationals, is unlikely to play again this season.

Jones, 32, is no stranger to injury, having damaged the same knee against Argentina in 1989. Doctors doubted that he would walk properly again, but Jones, a devout Christian who refuses to play on Sundays, recovered and regained his All Black jersey. "Michael Jones has done so many amazing things coming back from injuries, don't write him off," John Hart, the All Black coach, said after the match on Saturday.

Andrew Mehrtens, the stand-off half, suffered a hamstring injury and will also miss the first international against Argentina, in Wellington on Saturday. Taine Randell, of Otago, will be

switched to blind-side flanker, while Carlos Spencer, of Auckland, will make his New Zealand debut.

Hart said that Randell would do as good a job at No 6 as he did on Saturday in the No 8 jersey in place of Zinzan Brooke. "No one is going to fill Michael Jones's shoes," Hart said. "It is an impossibility: he is a player apart in the game; but Taine is someone this panel has a lot of faith in."



Jones: knee injury

Canada won the Pacific Rim championship for the second successive year by defeating Japan 42-18 in Vancouver on Saturday. Although all four teams still have one match to play, Canada have an insurmountable five-point lead over the United States.

Canada scored 31 points in the second half after trailing 13-11 at the interval, wearing down the Japan resistance with wave after wave of forward drives that eventually opened gaps for the backs.

Gareth Rees, the captain, scored two tries, converted three and added two penalty goals to give him a championship total of 75 points. Other try-scorers for Canada were Mike James, Scott Stewart, David Loughheed and Scott Bryan. Japan's scorers were Oto, Iwabuchi and Nakamura, with tries, and Iwabuchi, with a penalty goal.

Pat Parfrey, the Canada coach, said that, at half-time, he told his players "to relax, not to make turnovers and that the opportunities would come". They did.

Breakaway tries end Irish hopes

THE counter-attacking brilliance of Western Samoa overwhelmed the Ireland Development XV in Apia yesterday. The Irish, who led 25-23 at half-time, were beaten 57-25, conceding four converted tries when the Samoans elected to run the ball from their own try-line.

Pat Whelan, the Ireland manager, said, however, that his side had played well and only a lack of clinical finishing prevented the match being a closely-run affair.

"It was just the manner of the defeat that was so disappointing, because we played exceptionally well and conceded 28 points from their line," he said.

"It was quite delicately poised until about ten minutes into the second half, when they got the breakaway scores which made all the difference. We had constructed all those attacking situations but then they broke away and turned it into points, so it was a kind of double whammy."

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JULY/AUGUST ISSUE. OUT NOW

TRIATHLON

Windsor victory brings Smith welcome comfort

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ON A morning when two recent converts to triathlon made their presence felt, there was still no denying Spencer Smith, Great Britain's former world champion, the loudest fanfare in the PepsiMax Royal Windsor race yesterday.

Smith proved a comfortable winner, though that may be an inappropriate way of describing how he felt.

For the second season in succession, Smith's participation in his only British triathlon of the year looked in doubt. He was knocked off his bike while training on Friday, suffering cuts and bruises to an elbow and thigh. The timing of his misfortune was reminiscent of last year when, shortly before the Longleat triathlon, he fell down some stairs and withdrew.

While Smith was not sufficiently badly hurt to give serious consideration to pulling out yesterday, his bandaged right elbow beneath his wetsuit restricted his swimming stroke. The effect of

and Eton College, this was triathlon wearing its Sunday best. The swim takes place in the Thames, followed by a ride through picturesque Berkshire villages and Windsor Great Park. The run goes along Eton Bridge and Eton High Street.

The event takes in 900 years of British history," John Lunt, the race director, said. Unfortunately, the river has been there a long time, too. "Don't drink the water," Lunt shouted to competitors as the race was about to start. The athletes laughed, at least those who had not drunk from the Thames before. "Make a deliberate attempt not to drink it," he insisted.

Smith, after recent victories in St Croix, in the Virgin Islands, and San Diego, where he lives now, was introduced as "Hounslow boy done well". Richard Allen is Yorkshire's answer to Smith, now training in Florida and a full-time professional. As a relative newcomer, his progress has been brisk. Sixth after the ride, Allen pursued Smith doggedly through the run to finish second, recording 1hr 53min 32sec to the winner's 1hr 52min 53sec.

While Simon Lessing, the world champion, and Smith have kept Britain in the forefront of global success, the indications are that Allen may be on his way to increasing to three the nation's membership of the elite. He, like Smith, was not entirely happy with his performance. "I kept getting cramp," he said.

Smith said: "Maybe not this year or next year, but in two or three years, Richard is going to be up there with me and Simon. He is a strong guy." Allen will be delighted to hear encouragement from such a revered source.

"I suppose Spencer has always been my idol," Allen said. "He is so professional in the way he trains, looks after sponsors and leads his life. I am trying to model my career on his." Perhaps beat him one day? "At the Olympics would be nice."

Allen's next opportunity will be at the European championships next month, when both will be medal contenders. "Two years ago at Windsor he beat me by three minutes, so it is coming down all the time," Allen said.

Until he was tempted into triathlon by watching his father, Allen's sporting stage was a rugby pitch, playing for Yorkshire Schools Under-19s. "I was never good enough to make it higher than that," Allen, now 23, said. "I went to watch my dad do a triathlon and it looked good fun."

Like Allen, Sian Brice was successful in another sport. Victory in the women's race yesterday was a quick return on the investment that West Merchant Bank, her employer, has made in her. It has agreed to give her a five-month sabbatical every year up to the 2000 Olympics, to concentrate on triathlon.

As Sian Filling, Brice was the fastest of the non-qualifiers for the 1986 Commonwealth

Games 1,500 metres. A hip injury in 1992 left her to swim for fitness and she tried her first Olympic distance triathlon in 1994. From fourth in the European championships last year, she is aiming for a top-20 placing next month.

While Brice was in athletics, Sarah Coope won six British and six European titles. Yesterday, she made her return to serious competition after a four-year absence and finished third, recording 2hr 14min 23sec to Brice's 2hr 08min 34sec. "If you could come straight back in at the top, it would not be worth having," Coope said philosophically. "It gives me something to work at."

RESULTS: Men: 1. S. Smith 1hr 52min 53sec; 2. R. Allen 1hr 53min 32sec; 3. T. Snowdon 1hr 54min 22sec; Women: 1. S. Brice 2hr 08min 34sec; 2. V. Bignone 2hr 13min 32sec; 3. S. Coope 2hr 14min 23sec.



Race officials watch from a boat as competitors set out on their 1,500-metre swim in the Thames, the first leg of the Royal Windsor triathlon

'British sport is ruling the world but the best is yet to come.'

Martin Johnson

Captain of the British Lions 1997

British Lions v South Africa

1st test - June 21

2nd test - June 28

3rd test - July 5

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Smith strides past Windsor Castle on his way to victory

having been shaken up also told on his performance.

After the 1,500-metre swim and 40-kilometre ride, Smith set out on the ten-kilometre run in fifth place. "Where's Spencer? He must have crashed," one spectator observed, summing up the general surprise that Smith, the 1993 and 1994 world champion, was not forcing the pace as the leading riders turned into the transition park.

Not until the run did Smith take a stranglehold. On the first of three laps, he moved into the lead by 21 seconds. "A crash is not the best preparation for a race and I'm sure it took strength out of me," Smith said, "but true champions can win when they are not 100 per cent."

Smith's determination was partly to do with this being his favourite British race, near to where he was brought up, and especially enjoyable for its unique scenery.

As the sun shone on a backdrop of Windsor Castle

BOWLS

Cornwall embarrass England selectors

By DAVID RHYS JONES

CORNWALL, who were not represented in the England international trial last month, sent a clear message to the national selectors when they swept past Gloucestershire, at Camelford, for their second win in two matches in the Middleton Cup.

County officials expressed their disappointment when not one player from the county was included in the trial, but their words were not as eloquent as the form shown by Cornwall's men, led by Duncan Hayne, who skipped his rink to a 32-17 victory.

It will not have escaped the Cornwall selectors' notice that Tony Allcock, Andy Wills and Les Gillen, three of Gloucestershire's skips, will be in the England team at Worthing in a couple of weeks, and that the county side is selected, coached and captained by Allcock. They were no match for the dogged Cornish, who won 131-114, the last straw for Gloucestershire being a narrow defeat for Allcock's own rink by Peter Gilbert's Surrey and Norfolk, making

ing their first appearances this summer, collected encouraging victories against Berkshire and Cambridgeshire, respectively, while Sussex and Middlesex, who each lost last week, finished level, 123-123, at Worthing Pavilion.

Although one of the Middlesex players had gone home, an extra end was played, but was then discounted. Middlesex had won on four of the six rinks and, with five points for a tie, and two points for each winning rink, were declared the winners by 13 points to nine.

Bill Curran, of Manchester, who brought a gold medal back from the Paralympics in Atlanta last year, edged home 21-20 against Richard Farnath, of Nottingham, in the final of the British wheelchair championship at Stoke Mandeville. Penny Tyler, from Coventry, notched up a double, winning the women's singles, and with Mary Ralls, of Bristol, the pairs. Colin Ritchie, the Northern Ireland champion, won the tetraplegic singles title.

Breakaway tries end Irish hopes

Chris McGrath meets a master American rider turning pupil for Royal Ascot

Stevens enrolling in course of study

There is nothing quite like \$12.7 million for relieving tedium, with the possible exception of \$12.8 million. Somewhere between the two is the amount of prize-money accumulated by the 164 winners Gary Stevens rode last year, to finish fifth in the American jockeys' championship.

Racing in the United States is a treadmill of similar left-hand circuits. There are huge prizes on offer, but routine can numb the soul. Stevens, 34, has a lively, questioning nature and is intent on enriching the closing years of a brilliant career in a rather different sense. He can declare, with a

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SYLVAN PRINCESS (3.45 Brighton)
Next best: Prince Foley (8.30 Windsor)

Thunder gave four winners at York on Saturday including Ruler Of The World (11-1) and Ruler Of The World (11-1) when The Times Private Handicapper (Gordon Hubbard) top-rated Ghalous (100-50) at Leicester.

conviction not everybody is privileged to share, that there is more to life than money.

So it is that he is making a ten-day visit to Europe, centred on the following page-entire of Royal Ascot — and laying the foundations for a longer stay some time in the future.

Before warming up at Sandown on Saturday, Stevens had ridden in Britain only once, at Newmarket ten years ago. "I was drawn in the middle of a field of 29. On my right, Pat Eddery said: 'Which way are you going, mate?' I looked at him, and back at the track. In front of me stretched



Stevens relaxes with his girlfriend, Charlene Pineda, at Sandown before preparing for his Royal Ascot challenge

out this long, straight course, rails meeting on the horizon. I mean, did I have a choice? Then the gates opened, half the field went left, the other half right, and I suddenly found myself alone in the middle."

It was an insight into the unmechanical variety of racing in Europe, at a time when Stevens was pondering a job

with André Fabre. In the event, he stayed at home and promptly won the Kentucky Derby on Winning Colors. But, in a sense he has been increasingly reverting to that lone, independent turlow in the middle. For he can boast — in addition to resounding domestic success — the grateful esteem of the most influential figures in the global sport.

This week, for instance, he renews links with Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin team and John Gosden, the Derby-winning trainer. In the longer term, with vanguard surrounding Walter Swinburn's future, perhaps his efforts for Michael Tabor (Thunder Gulch in the 1995 Kentucky Derby) and Michael Stoute may prove more significant.

Stevens is sympathetic to the patient rhythm of racing in Europe, objecting that the American sport is hater-sister, sapping the young horse of the ability to "finish" a race. His aspirations here also reflect a devotion to the role model provided by Steve Cauthen, who became an admired champion of Britain racing after partnering Af-

firmed to Triple Crown success in 1978.

"Watching that was what made me fall in love with the sport. Here was a 17-year-old kid on the cover of Time. He had a big impact on my career and goals."

The calm and articulate Cauthen was never consumed by his precocious talent, and Stevens, likewise, scores a rounded and engaging character. All the same, he would have loved to arrive on these shores having freshly enhanced the symmetry of their riding careers. As it was, he was caught in the shadow of the post on Silver Charm in the Belmont Stakes, the final leg, nine days ago — having stretched heroically for the first Triple Crown since Affirmed.

"Silver Charm lit a fire that hasn't been there since 1978," he reflected. "The most disheartening thing was that he ran the race of his life, only to lose out on the post. But at least I could wake up and think: now England. Always new goals."

"When I went to Hong Kong two years ago, it was the greatest learning experience I ever had. That late in my career, it was a taste that gave me hunger."

Ascot is probably the toughest meeting in the world. I just want to enjoy the atmosphere, to be competing. I like to consider myself a student of racing, and this week is going to be an honour and an education."

Perhaps so, but one can equally well imagine Stevens teaching the class a thing or two. Rest assured, with the winning post in sight, there will be nothing sentimental about this education.

First Island dies from colic

THE lurid fashions at Royal Ascot tomorrow will strike a mournful note for Geoff Wragg, who yesterday lost one of his best servants. First Island (Chris McGrath writes). The crack milker was killed by an attack of colic, probably brought on by stress associated with the major surgery that was required after he fractured a cannon-bone on the Newmarket gallop 12 days ago.

First Island, tough and progressive, won the opening Queen Anne Stakes at last year's meeting, before going on to win the group one Sussex Stakes — in what proved to be his final run and probably his best — last month's Lockinge Stakes.

Wragg's fine record at the royal meeting includes Arcadian Heights in the 1994 Gold Cup, which this time sees a rematch between Double Trigger, successful the following year, and Classic Cliche, his conqueror last season.

But Classic Cliche only earned his place after putting some recently unsatisfactory work behind him over the weekend, and Double Trigger has also endured a troubled preparation. The latter will be ridden by Jason Weaver on Thursday, while Michael Roberts partners his full brother, Double Eclipse.

For many punters, however, the real highlight of the week is the big handicaps, and there may be no more

intriguing contender for the Wokingham on Friday than Alamein. He was William Haggas's first runner in six weeks at Newbury last Thursday, when — despite lacking his usual blinkers — he stayed on well to be second to Neuwelt.

"We feel that he didn't quite get the mile in the Britannia last year, or in the Lincoln, so we've taken him out of the Hunt Cup and will try him over six furlongs," Haggas said. "He was short of work at Newbury, which is why he didn't wear blinkers. He had a very long blow afterwards, and would have done too much with them on. That sharpened him up a lot, and Richard Quinn will ride."

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

York
Going: good to soft (good in places)
2.10 (m) 1. Grey Kingdom (D McNeill) 11-1, 2. Alan (25-1), 3. Thrash (7-1), 4. The Gay Fox (25-1), 5. Benzo (1-1), 6. The Fox (1-1), 7. The Fox (1-1), 8. The Fox (1-1), 9. The Fox (1-1), 10. The Fox (1-1), 11. The Fox (1-1), 12. The Fox (1-1), 13. The Fox (1-1), 14. The Fox (1-1), 15. The Fox (1-1), 16. The Fox (1-1), 17. The Fox (1-1), 18. The Fox (1-1), 19. The Fox (1-1), 20. The Fox (1-1), 21. The Fox (1-1), 22. The Fox (1-1), 23. The Fox (1-1), 24. The Fox (1-1), 25. The Fox (1-1), 26. The Fox (1-1), 27. The Fox (1-1), 28. The Fox (1-1), 29. The Fox (1-1), 30. The Fox (1-1), 31. The Fox (1-1), 32. The Fox (1-1), 33. The Fox (1-1), 34. The Fox (1-1), 35. The Fox (1-1), 36. The Fox (1-1), 37. The Fox (1-1), 38. The Fox (1-1), 39. The Fox (1-1), 40. The Fox (1-1), 41. The Fox (1-1), 42. The Fox (1-1), 43. The Fox (1-1), 44. The Fox (1-1), 45. The Fox (1-1), 46. The Fox (1-1), 47. The Fox (1-1), 48. The Fox (1-1), 49. The Fox (1-1), 50. The Fox (1-1), 51. The Fox (1-1), 52. 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By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

Stodel, left, and Heppell, her partner, in practice before they challenge for the Mirror Dinghy world championships in Canada

Stuart Thackrah, the headmaster of Holmwood House, said: "If someone has a speciality, we do everything we can to allow the pupil to follow it. Hannah has achieved more than we could have hoped for. She has an artificial limb, but has discarded it. She is a super girl."

Capstick and Duncan have one stage to complete

challenge, which is what it has been."

"Poul led as the first mark which was a nightmare for us," a relieved Bailey said afterwards. "We just had to fight our way through to second. It was tricky because the wind was shifting so much. On the second beat, the whole pack went quite hard for the shore, while we played every shift we came to and ended up quite far from the pack." Hoj-Jensen finished second overall on 23 points, with Gosling third on 44 points.

615	0	SWITCH TO SERVICE 28	D. Coogrove 3-3-12	M. Hanner 28
616	0	TRAP 24 11	C. Carter 3-3-12	D. Young 28
617	0	BACK ROW L Corner 3-3-12		B. Doyle 8
618	0	4 LIMEKILT 17	J. Turner 3-3-7	S. Sanders 24
619	0	SMOKELOT 276	B. Hays 3-3-12	M. Hays 28
620	0	TRAP 24 11	C. Carter 3-3-12	D. Young 28
621	0	4 SWEETEEZ 9	M. Hays 3-3-12	D. Hanner 17 (12)
622	0	SAVINT 14	J. Turner 3-3-7	A. Wheeler 33
623	0	TRAP 24 11	C. Carter 3-3-12	D. Hanner 28
624	0	TRIPLE CHALLENGE 124	B. L. Moses 3-3-7	Candy Moses 33
625	0	TRUE GLORY 24	A. Gordon 3-3-7	S. Hmit 7

11-4 Bright Hips, 7-2 Nemo, 5-1 Sherry, 14-1 Mabel, 8-1 Young Hanner, 10-1 Back Row, 1-2 Nemo, 11-2 Sherry, 11-4 Mabel, 8-1 Young Hanner.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THOMPSON: M. Johnston, 4 winners from 12 seasons, 32.3%; H. Cook, 14; G. Clark, 8; W. Clark, 8; from 10 to 12, 100%; G. Jones, 30, 100%; R. Smith, 30, 100%; R. Hancock, 26 from 20, 13.7%; /Building, 7 from 30, 14.0%.

JOCKEYS: F. Eddery, 41 winners from 10 seasons, 21.2%; Martin Doyle, 39 from 20, 20.5%; J. Turner, 30 from 15, 15.1%; H. Hays, 11 from 94, 13.1%; T. Gahan, 19 from 152, 12.5%.

*The default value is applied only where the player is not selected. Each country must complete one innings, otherwise all bets are off, and the prize fund is rolled forward to the next test. In the event of a tie the winner will be selected at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

Perry Cleveland-Peck succumbs to an urge to go kayaking, and finds himself up the desert with a canoe

Paddling through Mongolia

From time to time, I find myself flushed with the urge to go boating. Usually, I pop down to the Thames at Hammersmith but, when it comes to kayaking, where better to start than the Gobi Desert? I was in Mongolia to report on the Camel Trophy this year — a 20-day Land Rover expedition across extreme country — but the organisers have decided that there is more to life than motorising. So, when I met Karen McDonald, half of the United Kingdom team, her first task was to school me in the delights of two-person kayaking.

"You want to get it as upright as possible and then it's all in the wrist action," McDonald said as she sat behind me in the kayak on the edge of Taats Lake in the Gobi Desert. "So I've been told," I thought, but bit my tongue. McDonald, who is 30 and a firefighter by trade, is not one to be messed about on the river, especially when the talk is of paddle technique. "The object," she said, "is to get all of the blade moving through the water as



Contestants in the Camel Trophy Mongolia competition gasp for their breath. Fitness and the correct equipment are vital

close to the boat as possible in order to maximise your energy. Don't just use the muscles in your arms — use all your upper body."

We pushed off from the bank and made our way towards the centre of the lake. McDonald desperately trying to keep in time with my flailing strokes. Apart from the splash of our paddle blades, there was silence as we cut through the water. We were Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

The Perception Kiwi 2 kayaks used on the Camel Trophy are 391cm long by 83cm wide and made from a tough Polyethylene. They are built for durability rather than manoeuvrability, featuring an adjustable bow seat, backrest and foot pedals to allow for solo paddling. Over the top of the boat goes a nylon spray deck that stops water getting in.

In the case of the Kiwi 2, the spray deck is a two-in-one design, joined in the middle by Velcro, allowing paddlers to separate in case of emergency. The paddles have asymmetric blades and are made from glassfibre on an alloy shaft. The entire kit costs nearly £400.

More advanced kayakers could do worse than buy the Pryon Fly, which is a single-seater highly manoeuvrable boat, 269cm long, raised — and with all the volume

— at the front and low at the back like a surfboard. A new type of kayaking, becoming increasingly popular in the United Kingdom, is playboating, which employs stunt kayakers such as the Fly to perform tricks on the water.

Kayaking dress code stipulates that a helmet is essential, as is a buoyancy aid. In Mongolia, where the water is sometimes frozen, a dry suit is also vital — if you fall in Lake Hovsgol, one of the Camel Trophy competition sites, 100 kilometres south of the Siberian border, and are not wearing one, you have four minutes to survive. The kit that the team members are wearing is a semi-dry pair of rousers and a dry top made by Palm. They also wear Neoprene (wetsuit material) gloves and boots to keep the cold out; but back to McDonald and me in the Gobi.

"Whatever you do, don't capsize or we will have to swim back

to the shore and tow the boat and paddles with us," she said, as we tried to execute a turn. The only way of righting a capsized boat in the water is with the help of at least one other kayak, preferably two. You put the upturned boat across the centre of the second kayak and empty the water out. Then you turn it over and slide it back into the lake. Getting in again is a nightmare and I bore her advice in mind.

Turning a two-person kayak involves a co-ordinated effort between both occupants. While the person at the front holds his paddle vertically against the side of the boat to which he or she wants to turn, with the outside edge of the blade facing forwards at 45 degrees, the bow rudder manoeuvre, the person at the back sweeps with his opposite paddle held away from the boat

from a position at right angles to him towards the rear of the boat — a stroke known as the "sweep". This pivots the centre of the boat and the bow turns. It sounds complicated, but, with practice, it becomes quite easy.

Of course, the sort of water that McDonald has been coping with out here puts my delusions of Mark Twain to shame: eight kilometres of grade two relatively easy, the grading system goes to six in the United Kingdom) white water along the Chuluur Canyon, for example, kayaking through ice across

Lake Hovsgol, slalom races — green pole to be kept on the left, red on the right whether forwards or backwards — down Hovsgol's tributaries, flat-out eliminator races on White Lake. All pretty hardcore stuff for a beginner. More experienced kayakers

learn to read the water that they are paddling on. Eddies — flows of water in a different direction from the main body because of an obstacle, such as a rock — can be used to turn a boat and even hold it against the current of the river. Deeper water flows faster and can be recognised by its colour, always darker than the surrounding water.

Water on the outside edge of a bend in the river flows faster than the water on the inside edge, so when racing, in contrast to motor cars, it is quicker to take the outside line.

After a brief spell on the lake, McDonald left me on terra firma to go to compete in a kayaking competition with Trevor Smith, her team-mate. This time, they were to collect as many buoys, dropped in the lake earlier by a helicopter, as they could find. At the end of a frantic paddling session, they weighed anchor with an impressive handful, finishing in a creditable sixth place out of 20.

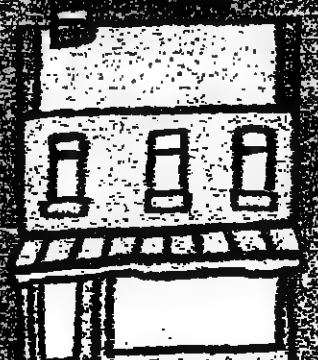
HOW TO DIP YOUR OAR IN THE WATER

TREVOR SMITH (below, at front), the second half of the United Kingdom team in the Camel Trophy, has been kayaking in Great Britain for five years. "It is a great way of keeping your upper body toned," Smith said, "especially your stomach muscles, your triceps and, to a lesser extent, the muscles in your chest. Joining a club is the best way to get started. It is safer and you can learn from the experience of people who have been doing it for years."

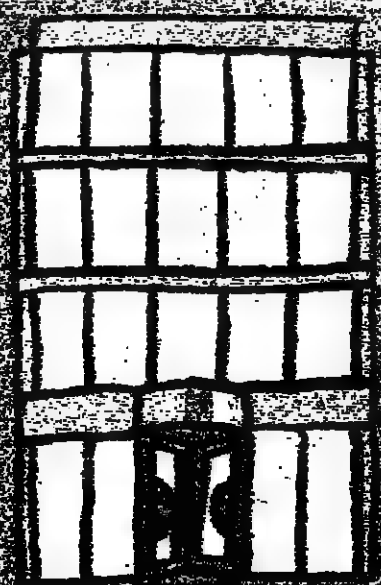
There are around 200 kayaking and canoeing clubs throughout Britain. They offer discounts on kayaking equipment and can introduce you to the best places to practise the sport. The British Canoe Union will provide you with details of your nearest club.

British Canoe Union, 01150-821 100

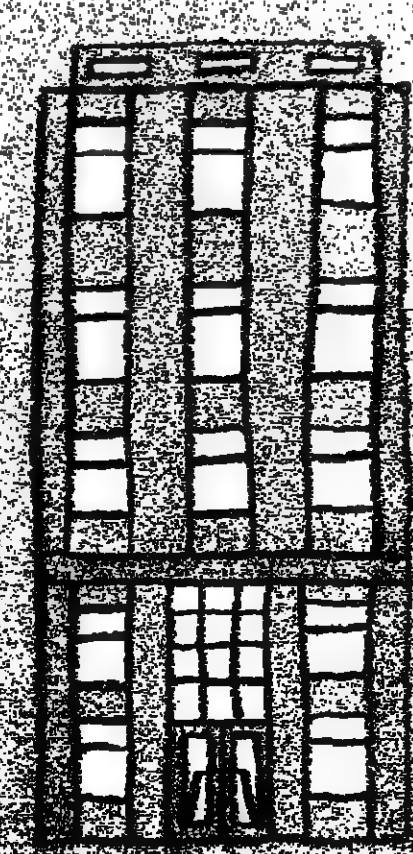




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100 minutes



200 minutes

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Alternative construction avoids anomaly

Jenks v Dickinson (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Neuberger (Judgment May 7)

The natural meaning of a deemed provision in the capital gains tax legislation that gave rise to an undoubted anomaly, fairly identified as an injustice, could be avoided by a taxpayer on disposing of shares by a deemed provision.

Thus section 139(1) of the Finance Act 1989 was not to be construed in the circumstances as having the result that a capital gain enjoyed by a taxpayer on disposing of shares was to be treated as not giving rise to a charge to tax.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Maureen Jenks, from the determination of a special commissioner that had upheld in principle assessments of capital gains tax for the year 1988-89 of £478,110, for 1991-92 of £41,710 and for 1992-93 of £2,480.

Section 139 of the 1989 Act amended section 139 of the 1982 Act, which provided for a deemed provision in the capital gains tax legislation.

Section 139(1) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(2) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(3) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(4) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

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Section 139(6) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

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Section 139(10) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(11) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(12) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(13) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(14) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(15) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Section 139(16) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

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Section 139(60) of the Finance Act 1989 provided that where a taxpayer disposed of shares, the gain or loss was to be treated as if it were a charge to tax.

Paragraph (a) shall be omitted."

Mr Christopher McCall, QC, instructed by K. Richards & Co, accountants, for the taxpayer, Mr Michael Jenks, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that in 1974 the taxpayer had acquired 840,000 £1 shares in Paterson Jenks Ltd. In June 1984 an investment company took over Paterson Jenks, the taxpayer receiving unsecured loan stock, the loan notes, in exchange for his shares. Between 1984 and 1987 the taxpayer disposed of some of the loan notes, but nothing turned on that.

In January 1987 the taxpayer exchanged the balance of his loan notes for non-voting shares in the investment company in the context of a share reorganisation. Thereafter in 1991-92 the taxpayer disposed of some of the non-voting stock. The question that arose was how his liability to capital gains tax in respect of those disposals was to be assessed.

Two exceptions to the general scheme of the tax were relevant. First, certain types of asset were treated as being outside the ambit of the tax: in particular by section 6(1) of the Finance Act 1979 Act gilt-edged securities.

Second, certain types of transaction, the most common type being a share reorganisation or takeover, were not treated as disposals, the new asset being treated as if it were the old: section 78 of the 1979 Act. By section 64 of the Finance Act 1984 the exemption accorded to gilt-edged securities was extended to bonds issued by companies

provided that certain requirements were satisfied. Schedule 13 to that Act was enacted to deal with the interrelationship of section 78 of the 1979 Act and the new section 6(1).

At the times of the 1984 and 1987 exchanges the loan notes were not qualifying corporate bonds, not satisfying the section 64 requirements. However, the loan notes would have been qualifying bonds with effect from March 14, 1989, because of section 139(2).

The taxpayer contended that on the proper construction of section 139(1) and on the application of the legislation which analysed any capital gain which the taxpayer actually enjoyed on the shares between March 1982 (see section 46 of the Finance Act 1988) and June 25, 1984, was not to be treated as a chargeable gain and would not therefore be chargeable to tax.

Mr McCall accepted that that was an anomaly. It contradicted the evident purpose of the statutory provisions, namely, that capital gains made on qualifying corporate bonds should be exempt from tax, whereas capital gains made on shares should be subject to tax.

In such circumstances principle, common sense and authority showed that the court was "entitled, and indeed bound, to discard the ordinary meaning... and adopt some other possible meaning... which will produce a

reasonable result": see *Lake v IRC* [1963] AC 557, 579-580. The contention advanced by the Crown, which had not been submitted to the commissioner, involved qualifying the second, retrospective part of section 139(1), which Mr Furness described as a deeming provision.

He contended that the deeming provision could not operate if its consequence was hypothetically to create a disposal before March 14, 1989, when no disposal in fact occurred, and then to apply the first part of section 139(1).

Mr Furness was correct. Section 139(1) required one to make retrospective assumptions as to how earlier transactions were to be treated.

The observations of Mr Justice Peter Gibson in the Court of Appeal in *Marshall v Kerr*, approved by Lord Browne-Wilkinson [1995] 1 AC 148, 164, indicated that, when considering the extent to which one could do some violence to the words and whether one could discard the ordinary meaning, one could, indeed one should, take into account the fact that one was construing a deeming provision.

That was not to say that normal principles of construction should be how ceased to apply. It was more that, by its very nature, a deeming provision involved artificial assumptions. It would frequently be unrealistic to expect the legislature to be able satisfactorily to prescribe the precise limit to the circumstances in which, the artificial assumptions were to be made.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on preliminary issues in an action brought by Nationwide Building Society against Bryan Lewis and Alyn Williams, formerly partners in the firm of Bryan Lewis & Co.

Mr Timothy Higginson for the building society, Mr Paul Parker for Mr Williams.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that the building society brought an action against a firm of solicitors for alleged negligence in connection with a mortgage. The building society was not pursuing its claim against Mr Lewis, the first defendant, who actually dealt with the loan transaction.

Mr Williams's name appeared on the firm's newspaper as a partner. Reviewing the facts and applying *Stoke v Ellis* [1973] 1 WLR 191, 199 the Lordship held that Mr Williams was not in fact an equity partner in the firm, jointly accountable for its liabilities, but that his name on the firm's newspaper gave the contrary impression and that he was held out as a partner.

Relying on section 14(1) of the Partnership Act 1890, *In re Fraser* [1922] 2 QB 633, 637, *Lynch v Stiff* [1943] CLR 438, 439 and *Hudgell Yates & Co v Watson* [1978] 1 QB 451, 467, 470-471, Mr Parker submitted that the building society had failed to prove any reliance by it on the fact that Mr Williams was held out as a partner and that there was no basis for any presumption that it did so rely.

He said there was no evidence that, when the building society instructed the firm in May 1991, it was remotely influenced by or relied on the fact that Mr Williams was held out as a partner since there was no evidence that it then even knew of his existence. One of the essential ingredients of a holding out claim was therefore missing.

Mr Higginson submitted that in the circumstances there was no need for the building society to prove that it placed reliance on Mr Williams's apparent status as a partner; alternatively, if reliance was a necessary ingredient, then it should be presumed.

In support of the first proposition Mr Higginson submitted that it would in many, perhaps

most cases be impossible to prove reliance; and, if it could not be shown, then claimants in positions similar to that of the building society would be without remedy against non-partners.

His Lordship did not find that a compelling submission. What it amounted to was that someone who was not a partner, but was held out as one, should be liable as a partner even to a claimant who placed no reliance on such holding out and who did not act on the faith of it. He saw no good reason why such a claimant should be entitled to a remedy against the non-partner so held out.

Further, the suggestion that the need to show reliance in a holding out case could sometimes be dispensed with involved a fundamental rewriting of the established principles. His Lordship had no doubt that the court could not so rewrite them. He did not accept Mr Higginson's first submission.

As to his second submission, he accepted that there would be circumstances in which it might be presumed that the claimant had acted on the faith of the holding out as a partner of someone who was not a partner. But there had to be a factual basis justifying such a presumption.

If Mr Parker was right that the only question was whether the building society placed reliance on Mr Williams's apparent status as a partner on May 8, 1991, then there was no factual basis for such a presumption.

In his Lordship's view, however, while May 8 was an important date, it was not the only important one. That was the beginning of the relationship, not the end of it.

The purpose of instructing the firm was to obtain advice from it as to the title to the property and as to whether the building society security was sufficient for the building society's purposes. That advice came back with the firm's letter of May 10 when it thanked the building society for its instructions and enclosed a favourable title report.

The letter was on the firm's notepaper, showing the firm name of "Bryan Lewis & Co" with alongside it the two names "Bryan Lewis BA (Hons) Law" and "Alyn Williams BA (Econ)". The reference given was "BLAW/GMK/CH/16334", which probably conveyed that the file was the responsibility of Mr Lewis and the letter was signed "Bryan Lewis & Co".

In his Lordship's judgment, however, that letter was not one by which Mr Lewis was acknowledging a personal retainer of himself alone in the manner, or was offering his personal opinion on title. It might well be that the report was exclusively his work and his Lordship was prepared so to assume.

But the letter was a response from what was apparently a two-partner firm, enclosing that firm's report on title. Correspondingly, when the building society received the letter, it was entitled to regard the enclosed report as being the advice of that two-partner firm. He found no difficulty in presuming in its favour that it relied on it as being a report which carried with it the implied imprimatur of both partners.

If reliance of that sort was not precisely what Mr Lewis and Mr Williams intended by putting the latter's name on the notepaper, his Lordship could not see why they did it.

It might be that any presumption that the building society so relied on the title report was rebuttable and that it could be shown that it in fact relied on it as being the advice of Mr Lewis. But Mr Williams had not attempted to show that.

One of the ways the building society put its case was, in effect, that the firm negligently failed to advise it of matters which materially qualified the advice contained in the title report.

It was ultimately of the essence of the building society's case that it relied on that report. In his Lordship's judgment Mr Williams was estopped from denying responsibility for it.

Solicitors: Mr D. Bolland; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Witness entitled to his costs

J. H. Shannon v Country Casuals Holdings plc

A witness upon whom a subpoena duces tecum had been served was entitled to his costs incurred in complying with the subpoena and was not limited to receiving conduct money only.

Such costs could include the taking of legal advice, where it was reasonable to have done so. Whether the costs would be payable on a standard or indemnity basis was a matter for the judge's discretion. Any dispute about quantum could be settled in front of the taxing master.

Mr Justice Garland so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 20 when granting an application by Morgan Grenfell & Co Ltd, the merchant bank retained to advise the defendant, for an order that the subpoena duces tecum which had been served on them by the plaintiff should be set aside and that they be awarded the costs of complying with it.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held refusing an application by the Littlewoods Pension Trust Ltd for judicial review of a decision of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority. The board had refused the trustee's application for an extension of time for payment of a transfer value to Mr Prodig Sanjar Guha under Part IV of the 1993 Act.

Mr Nigel Inglis-Jones, QC, for the trustee, Mr Mark Herbert, QC, for Mr Guha; Mr Peter Crampin, QC, for the regulatory authority.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the board was obliged to comply with the request of Mr Guha for a cash equivalent to his entitlement under the scheme within 12 months of that request unless the board had power under section 69(4)(a)(ii) to extend the period. That section provided for an extension where the interests of the scheme members generally

would be prejudiced if the trustees complied with the particular request.

"Interest" in the context of section 69(4)(a)(ii) meant the interest which the members of the scheme had as contributors to and recipients of benefits under the scheme. The interest had to be one which could be prejudiced by a payment by the trustee. Such interest would ordinarily be financial, but in some circumstances quite exceptionally the interest might be wider.

The financial interest of members would be prejudiced by a payment which materially affected the size of the fund or of any surplus in the fund. This fund was in surplus.

The members were not volunteers but purchasers who in return for their services to Littlewoods and their contributions had acquired their rights under the scheme and with them a legitimate expectation that some part of the surplus might be used to augment their benefits.

Partners jointly and severally liable

Nationwide Building Society v Lewis and Another

Before Mr Justice Rimer (Judgment May 23)

A person who signed advice provided by another was estopped from denying responsibility for it. Therefore where an employee in a firm was held out as a partner and a report written by him for a client was signed in the firm's name, the other partners were jointly and severally liable for any loss caused by negligence in the report if the client had relied on it as advice given by the firm.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on preliminary issues in an action brought by Nationwide Building Society against Bryan Lewis and Alyn Williams, formerly partners in the firm of Bryan Lewis & Co.

Mr Timothy Higginson for the building society, Mr Paul Parker for Mr Williams.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that the building society brought an action against a firm of solicitors for alleged negligence in connection with a mortgage. The building society was not pursuing its claim against Mr Lewis, the first defendant, who actually dealt with the loan transaction.

Mr Williams's name appeared on the firm's newspaper as a partner. Reviewing the facts and applying *Stoke v Ellis* [1973] 1 WLR 191, 199 the Lordship held that Mr Williams was not in fact an equity partner in the firm, jointly accountable for its liabilities, but that his name on the firm's newspaper gave the contrary impression and that he was held out as a partner.

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He said there was no evidence that, when the building society instructed the firm in May 1991, it was remotely influenced by or relied on the fact that Mr Williams was held out as a partner since there was no evidence that it then even knew of his existence. One of the essential ingredients of a holding out claim was therefore missing.

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His Lordship did not find that a compelling submission. What it amounted to was that someone who was not a partner, but was held out as one, should be liable as a partner even to a claimant who placed no reliance on such holding out and who did not act on the faith of it. He saw no good reason why such a claimant should be entitled to a remedy against the non-partner so held out.

Further, the suggestion that the need to show reliance in a holding out case could sometimes be dispensed with involved a fundamental rewriting of the established principles. His Lordship had no doubt that the court could not so rewrite them. He did not accept Mr Higginson's first submission.

As to his second submission, he accepted that there would be circumstances in which it might be presumed that the claimant had acted on the faith of the holding out as a partner of someone who was not a partner. But there had to be a factual basis justifying such a presumption.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Albion, Deltron Electronics, Eurotherm, Legal & General Recovery IT, London Scottish Bank, Snakeboard International, Financ, British Steel, London Merchant Securities, Plysu, Wainhomes, Wynneley Properties, Economics: CBI property trends survey, EU summit, Amsterdam.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cardiff Property, Eurotherm, Firth, Hill Samuel UK Emerging Companies IT, Hunters Armley Group, Sheritt Holdings, Watson & Philip, Financ, Atlantic Telecom Group, Business Post Group, Carpetright, Hazwood Foods, Mountview Estates, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newsagents, Stanley Leisure, Thames Water, Tinsley Robert, Wellman. Economics: PSBR for May, US consumer prices for May, US housing starts for May, US industrial production for May, EU summit, Amsterdam.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: City Site Estates, Halsland, Financ, European Motor Holdings, Metshed Insurance, Sutcliffe Speakman, John Swan. Economics: Retail sales for May, minutes of May 6 UK monetary meeting, US first quarter labour productivity, revised, OECD economic outlook.

THURSDAY

Interims: Securicor, CA Sperati, Usher of Trowbridge, Financ, Courts, Cox Insurance Holdings, Jarvis Hotels, Metroland Industries, Plannigan International Capital, Symonds. Economics: Car production for May, provisional M4 and final M0 data for May, British Bankers' Association and Building Societies Association monthly lending figures, US trade deficit for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: Granger Trust, Henderson Strata Investments, Financ, Banner Homes. Economics: CBI industrial trends survey for June.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.27	2.11
Austria Sch	20.80	19.31
Belgium Fr	61.41	58.77
Canada \$	2.38	2.19
Cyprus Cyp	0.92	0.81
Denmark Kr	11.32	10.50
Finland Mk	6.01	5.51
France Fr	6.96	6.38
Germany Dr	2.29	2.17
Greece Dr	474	437
Hong Kong \$	15.28	14.28
Ireland Ir	1.13	1.06
Israel Sh	5.81	5.28
Italy Lit	2045	2725
Japan Yen	201.40	184.00
Malta Lm	0.685	0.607
Netherlands Gld	0.935	0.857
New Zealand \$	2.82	2.59
Norway Kr	12.41	11.25
Portugal Esc	207.40	277.00
S Africa Rd	8.06	7.13
Spain Ps	280.00	262.50
Sweden Kr	15.44	14.41
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.10
Turkey Lira	24000	22700
USA \$	1.734	1.628

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

British Steel pounded by sterling



The strong pound has proved a heavy load to bear for Sir Brian Moffat and British Steel

BRITISH STEEL: Full-year figures out later today will reflect the ravages of a strong pound on the group's fortunes. As NatWest Securities, the broker, points out, during the past ten months sterling has appreciated by a quarter against the mark, taking the competitive edge off British Steel's performance when trading abroad. It will also offset any benefit that might have been gained from rising steel prices.

NatWest expects a collapse in pre-tax profits from £1.1 billion to £465 million, with earnings down 68 per cent from 38.2p to 15.8p a share.

There are now signs that European demand and prices are starting to move in the right direction with some positive noises recently from other steel manufacturers such as Usinor and Sacilor. But any benefit to British Steel, whose chairman and chief executive is Sir Brian Moffat, will prove minimal with extra costs dictated by currency factors.

The payout to shareholders is expected to be pegged at 10p although the outlook for future dividend payments may be less certain. Cash cover remains healthy but earnings cover has already dropped to 0.7 times.

THAMES WATER: It may have the worst record for leaks among the water companies but this should not detract from another solid performance when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow. These should show pre-tax profits up almost 20 per cent at £385 million, with earnings 14 per cent ahead at 84.8p. It follows a better than expected performance at half time and will also reflect the absence of reorganisation costs, which last year reached £95 million. The figures are likely to include a provision of £12 million against the repurchase of convertible bonds. Like all the water companies that have reported so far, the event will be overshadowed by next month's Budget and the windfall tax.

SECURICOR: Half-year figures on Thursday are unlikely to contain much in the way of surprises after the group's profits warning in March. Headline pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £46 million, compared with £51.1 million for the corresponding period last year, with earnings a share down from 5.7p to 4.9p. The profits warning stem-

med from poor subscriber growth at Cellnet, the mobile phone operator, which it owns jointly with BT and which now provides the biggest percentage of profits. In addition, Intek, its 64 per cent-owned US radio network operation, is likely to have recorded a £7 million loss, reflecting high start-up costs.

The cellular market remains competitive and this, combined with the high cost of churning and migration, will result in a £3 million loss at Securicor Cellular Services.

A change in accounting policy will produce a first-half write-off of £18 million.

HAZLEWOOD FOODS: Growth continues, but modestly. Full-year figures tomorrow

should show further improvement. Brokers have pencilled in pre-tax profits of £35.5 million against £34 million last time. Earnings may be unchanged at 11p. First-half results were marred by a £4.7 million provision relating to the disposal of Charles Turney. Solid performances from groceries and tomatoes were countered by high pork prices and the beef crisis.

More than 50 per cent of sales are taken up by the five big supermarket chains, including Sainsbury's, which has been upgrading its own brand label items. This will have reflected in higher volume growth. But there are still many problems overshadowing the group's performance. These range from tax changes, EU packaging direc-

tives and rising raw materials costs.

CARPETRIGHT: If anyone is looking for evidence of a slowdown in the carpet retailer's phenomenal growth rate when full-year figures are revealed tomorrow, they are likely to be confounded.

Carpetright is continuing to baffle the cynics. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £32 million compared with £24.7 million last time, an increase of 30 per cent. Earnings growth will be a little less spectacular, coming in at 27.7p, a rise of 24 per cent. This will be achieved on sales of £252 million, up from £185.3 million last time, with all the evidence pointing to a recovery after the pre-election hiccup.

This growth will come from the 57-strong Depot stores after the breathtaking addition of 46 new stores in the past year alone. Gross margins are likely to have been held at 48.0 per cent.

Brokers will be keeping a close eye on costs and will be relieved if the group issues an upbeat statement on current trading, given the prospect of a slowdown in durable goods sales next year.

Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with a payout of 19p, up from 14½p last time.

EUROTHERM: This process controls group is another that will have felt the harsh effects of a strong pound. Half-year numbers due out tomorrow will reveal a downturn in pre-tax profits from £18.7 million to £15.5 million with earnings a share declining from 13.3p to 11.3p.

Exports account for 40 per cent of sales, which are likely to be hovering around the £100 million mark this time. The strong pound will no doubt make a dent in operating margins, which were 17.6 per cent this time last year.

In addition to the currency factors the group will also have had to contend with a slowdown in demand, particularly in Europe.

Despite the shortfall in profitability the group will be loath to cut the dividend and brokers are anticipating an increase in the payout from 4p to 4.3p with a total of 9.6p pencilled in for the year.

COURTS: A bumper set of numbers are envisaged when full-year figures emerge on Thursday. Joan D'Olier at NatWest is looking for £25 million against £18.3 million last time, with earnings growing by a staggering 47 per cent from 14.7p to 21.6p.

Much of the growth can be accounted for by an increasingly aggressive approach from the group itself. Marketing has intensified, more stores have been opened and the group has opted for centralised buying. The upturn in the housing market helped to produce a 30 per cent rise in like-for-like sales during the first half, although there was evidence of a slowdown in the run-up to Christmas. Five new stores were opened last year with a further seven this time round.

A 17 per cent rise in payout from 3p to 3.52p is expected.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Eyes turn to Amsterdam

The implications of the Amsterdam summit for the euro will provide anxious moments for markets in the early part of the week. Traders presume a fudge on employment that will satisfy the honour of the new French Government but change little. There will be some of the last statistics relevant to Gordon Brown's first Budget judgment on July 2, including a 1980s-style Norwich Union flotation today, and some signals for US interest rates.

A second relatively low UK public sector borrowing requirement at the start of the financial year, due tomorrow, would help. Analysts have little idea, judging from forecasts recorded by Standard & Poor's MMS survey, which range from £0.2 to £4.6 billion, but several leading houses go for between £2 billion and the median forecast of £3 billion.

The Chancellor will be under some pressure to tighten fiscal policy in any case. One key indicator is retail sales, for which May figures are due on Wednesday. Again, forecasts vary strikingly, ranging from a month to month fall of 0.4 per cent to a rise of 0.5 per cent. S&P opts for the median 0.3 per cent rise, as does Yamaichi. HSBC goes for no change and Philip Shaw, in his last weekly forecast for Union, predicts a 0.2 per cent drop. No immediate windfall worries there.

Broad money growth has settled well above its old-style Treasury monitoring range. May growth of M4, due on Thursday, should bring no alarm. Forecasts cluster near the median 0.6 per cent, which would peg annual growth back from 10.4 to 9.8 per cent. That may be of interest to the Bank of England's monetary commission, which will also be a target of any more CBI complaints about sterling in its monthly trends survey on Friday.

Meanwhile, markets will watch a clutch of American indicators for signs that the economy is slowing a little, the prerequisite to avoid another rate rise there. May industrial production, housing starts and consumer prices are all due tomorrow. Forecasters look for output growth of 0.2 to 0.3 per cent on the month. The trade deficit, due on Friday, is expected to have deteriorated to about \$10 billion.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Vickers, MFI, Christian Salvesen, Hazlewood Foods, Chiroscience, Cadbury Schweppes, Quintain Estates, Hold Amersham. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Hanover Int'l, Caspian Group, Rank Megalomed, Sell MSD Int'l, Forminster. The Mail On Sunday: Buy Calderburn, C&W, The Observer, Buy Granada, McBride, Unigate, Northern Foods.

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OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

Norwich Union plc
Share Offer Allocations

Allocations of Norwich Union shares sold under the Members' Offer and Retail Offer have been made as shown below.

Members' Offer Price
265 p per share

Allocations in the Members' Offer

Amount applied for	Number of shares allocated	Percentage allocated
£400	150	100%
£600	226	100%
£800	301	100%
£1,000	377	100%
£1,500	566	100%
£2,000	585	78%
£2,500	600	64%
£3,000	615	54%
£4,000	640	42%
£5,000	680	36%
£10,000	830	22%
£15,000	980	17%
£20,000	1,130	15%
£30,000	1,430	13%
£40,000	1,730	11%
£50,000	2,030	11%
£60,000	2,330	10%
£70,000	2,630	10%
£80,000	2,930	10%
£90,000	3,230	10%
£100,000	3,540	9%

Public Offer Price (Retail Offer)
290 p per share

Allocations in the Retail Offer

Amount applied for	Number of shares allocated	Percentage allocated
£1,000	344	100%
£1,500	577	100%
£2,000	535	78%
£2,500	548	64%
£3,000	562	54%
£4,000	584	42%
£5,000	621	36%
£10,000	758	22%
£15,000	895	17%
£20,000	1,032	15%
£30,000	1,306	13%
£40,000	1,580	11%
£50,000	1,855	11%
£60,000	2,129	10%
£70,000	2,403	10%
£80,000	2,677	10%
£90,000	2,951	10%
£100,000	3,234	9%
£150,000 and above	5,000	—

Notes: References to applications are to applications which have been duly made and not rejected.

Norwich Union Share Account statements and share certificates together with return money cheques are expected to be despatched to applicants on Friday 20 June 1997. Applicants who deal before receipt of a share account statement or share certificate will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation.

Global Co-ordinator

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson

The allocations are conditional on Norwich Union shares being listed on the London Stock Exchange. It is expected that this will occur early on 16 June 1997. This advertisement has been issued by Norwich Union plc and approved by Kleinwort Benson Limited (which is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited) for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Kleinwort Benson Limited is acting for The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society and Norwich Union plc and so one also in relation to the Offers and will not be responsible to anyone other than The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society and Norwich Union plc for providing the protections afforded to customers of Kleinwort Benson Limited nor for providing advice in relation to the Offers. The value of shares can fluctuate. For advice consult a professional adviser. Stabilisation/58.

15 June 1997

Tecs offer ideas on back-to-work policy

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S business-led training and enterprise councils, which were heavily criticised by Labour in Opposition, believe they are securing a new role with the Government.

Tec leaders are now closely involved in preparing policy documents on the Government's welfare-to-work programme — the centrepiece of Gordon Brown's first Budget next month.

Before the election, Labour said it would alter the governing bodies of Tec and use some of their funding for other elements of its jobs programme. Privately, Labour leaders argued that with Business Links, Tec and chambers of commerce all offering local services to business, there was duplication and over-provision

and that Tec was likely to be the weakest link.

Tec has since lobbied for a role in the Government's New Deal jobs programme, which aims to get 250,000 young people off benefit and into work, and to offer help to the long-term unemployed.

Ministers have decided that the employment service and organisations such as the Prince's Trust will be main delivery means, but Tec leaders believe ministers have now recognised the value of Tec in getting the programme in place.

Senior Whitehall officials have asked Tec to prepare ten separate policy documents on aspects of the welfare-to-work programme that are to be used in the final shaping of the Budget. They include proposals on the equal opportunity

aspects and planned action zones to boost jobs in areas of high unemployment.

Tec leaders believe that the large number of ministers who have now agreed to attend their annual conference in Birmingham next month underlines what they judge to be a more positive view of them by the Government. They include David Blunkett, the Employment and Education Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Nigel Chilcott, secretary of the Tec national council, is leaving, and the Tec is to appoint new directors of operations and communications. A survey by the Industrial Society published today shows a 50 per cent fall in employer satisfaction with Tec.



Thunder beat nine other yachts from the London insurance markets that took part in the 20-mile annual Sedgwick yacht rally race at Cowes at the weekend

Beckett ready to reject Bass project

By Martin Waller

THERE is mounting speculation that the Government will this week finally rule on the attempt by Bass to become Britain's biggest brewer by completing the takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley, and that the deal, one of the most delayed in British corporate history, will finally fall apart.

Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Trade, had been expected to give her ruling last week on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report into the deal, which has been on her desk since the election.

The MMC is believed to have ruled that Bass would have to get rid of about half of its estate of tied and managed pubs in return for boosting its share of the brewing market to 35 per cent or more.

Bass has intimated that it might walk away from the deal if the terms are more onerous.

The company has also been saying privately that the purchase is now far less attractive because of the damage to Carlsberg-Tetley, while it has been beset by the competition authorities.

The link for Bass to pay £200 million for Allied Domecq's half-stake and acquire the other half owned by Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, has been under negotiation since last spring and was agreed in August.

At the heart of the matter for Ms Beckett are the 2,500 job losses that could result from the merger. Were the deal to founder, some rationalisation is thought inevitable anyway.

If Bass decides not to proceed with the purchase, Allied

Domecq will achieve its desire to quit UK brewing, and the contract to supply beer to its pubs reverts to what the company calls "close to normal commercial rates".

Carlsberg would take over 85 per cent of the business, the remaining 15 per cent staying with Allied in return for a payment of £30 million to Bass.

Chiquita may bid for Fisher

By Sarah Cunningham

CHIKUITA, the US fresh produce company, is believed to be planning a bid for Albert Fisher, the food company that said last week it was in talks that could lead to a takeover.

Fisher made its announcement on Friday after an unexpected rise in its share price. The board, which has been struggling to turn round the company, is thought to be happy with the idea of selling to Chiquita on the ground larger food concerns tend to be more successful.

Speculation earlier had centred on Geest, Fyffes and Dole of America as potential bidders. However, a formal bid by Chiquita could come as early as this week.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Roll-call nears 300 two years on

THE Alternative Investment Market celebrates its second anniversary on Thursday, marking the event with a market value almost touching £6 billion and a roll-call of nearly 300 companies.

In its short lifetime, the junior exchange has raised £1.2 billion of fresh money, delivered eight companies to the full list and done well for most investors.

Forecasters of doom surrounded AIM's conception in 1995. Pessimists thought a low-cost exchange would be a backdoor for the City's underclass, creating a hot-

bed of speculative stocks that would disappear as quickly as they had arrived.

That has not been the case. Of 299 companies that have joined AIM only three have lost their listing. Most AIM companies are delivering exactly the progress expected.

The 116 that have posted full-year results so far have shown an average increase in turnover of 22 per cent and an average rise in profits of 42

per cent. Nor have the share prices disappointed. Over the past 12 months, six of the top ten performing UK equities have been AIM stocks.

If investors had celebrated AIM's first anniversary by buying shares in Westmont Energy, the best performing stock of the past 12 months they would be sitting on a 417 per cent return.

That sort of performance has given AIM a strong fan

base among private investors, but the City still views the market with scepticism. Individual shareholders now make up to 70 per cent of business, according to Winterflood Securities, the only broker house that buys and sells every AIM stock.

Institutions have been less active, bemoaning the difficulty of trading in million pound holdings. They like to invest in multiples of £500,000, hard to

come by in a market where the average company is valued at £20 million.

A recent survey of institutions found that many avoid AIM because it is "full of spivvy stocks", with some describing the quality of stocks as "appalling".

Sceptics point out that AIM has flourished in a bull market and has never been tested by a serious downturn. A glance at the FTSE AIM

index also paints a bleaker picture. It has underperformed main market indices, but as a weighted index it is dictated by a handful of AIM's largest and most sluggish performers.

Private investors who back tiddlers early have few complaints, and the London Stock Exchange regards AIM as one of its greatest successes. But to many serious players in the City, it has much more growing to do before it warrants serious investment.

FRASER NELSON

1997	Low	High	Mid cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E
128	100	123	123	123	123	123	123
129	101	124	124	124	124	124	124
130	102	125	125	125	125	125	125
131	103	126	126	126	126	126	126
132	104	127	127	127	127	127	127
133	105	128	128	128	128	128	128
134	106	129	129	129	129	129	129
135	107	130	130	130	130	130	130
136	108	131	131	131	131	131	131
137	109	132	132	132	132	132	132
138	110	133	133	133	133	133	133
139	111	134	134	134	134	134	134
140	112	135	135	135	135	135	135
141	113	136	136	136	136	136	136
142	114	137	137	137	137	137	137
143	115	138	138	138	138	138	138
144	116	139	139	139	139	139	139
145	117	140	140	140	140	140	140
146	118	141	141	141	141	141	141
147	119	142	142	142	142	142	142
148	120	143	143	143	143	143	143
149	121	144	144	144	144	144	144
150	122	145	145	145	145	145	145
151	123	146	146	146	146	146	146
152	124	147	147	147	147	147	147
153	125	148	148	148	148	148	148
154	126	149	149	149	149	149	149
155	127	150	150	150	150	150	150
156	128	151	151	151	151	151	151
157	129	152	152	152	152	152	152
158	130	153	153	153	153	153	153
159	131	154	154	154	154	154	154
160	132	155	155	155	155	155	155
161	133	156	156	156	156	156	156
162	134	157	157	157	157	157	157
163	135	158	158	158	158	158	158
164	136	159	159	159	159	159	159
165	137	160	160	160	160	160	160
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167	139	162	162	162	162	162	162
168	140	163	163	163	163	163	163
169	141	164	164	164	164	164	164
170	142	165	165	165	165	165	165
171	143	166	166	166	166	166	166
172	144	167	167	167	167	167	167
173	145	168	168	168	168	168	168
174	146	169	169	169	169	169	169
175	147	170	170	170	170	170	170
176	148	171	171	171	171	171	171
177	149	172	172	172	172	172	172
178	150	173	173	173	173	173	173
179	151	174	174	174	174	174	174
180	152	175	175	175	175	175	175
181	153	176	176	176	176	176	176
182	154	177	177	177	177	177	177
183	155	178	178	178	178	178	178
184	156	179	179	179	179	179	179
185	157	180	180	180	180	180	180
186	158	181	181	181	181	181	181
187	159	182	182	182	182	182	182
188	160	183	183	183	183	183	183
189	161	184	184	184	184	184	184
190	162	185	185	185	185	185	185
191	163	186	186	186	186	186	186
192	164	187	187	187	187	187	187
193	165	188	188	188	188	188	188
194	166	189	189	189	189	189	189
195	167	190	190	190	190	190	190
196	168	191	191	191	191	191	191
197	169	192	192	192	192	192	192
198	170	193	193	193	193	193	193
199	171	194	194	194	194	194	194
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201	173	196	196	196	196	196	196
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205	177	200	200	200	200	200	200
206	178	201	201	201	201	201	201
207	179	202	202	202	202	202	202
208	180	203	203	203	203	203	203
209	181	204	204	204	204	204	204
210	182	205	205	205	205	205	205
211	183	206	206	206	206	206	206
212	184	207	207	207	207	207	207
213	185	208	208	208	208	208	208
214	186	209	209	209	209	209	209
215	187	210	210	210	210	210	210
216	188	211	211	211	211	211	211
217	189	212	212	212	212	212	212
218	190	213	213	213	213	213	213
219	191	214	214	214	214	214	214
220	192	215	215	215	215	215	215
221	193	216	216	216	216	216	216
222	194	217	217	217	217	217	217
223	195	218	218	218	218	218	218
224	196	219	219	219	219	219	219
225	197	220	220	220	220	220	220
226	198	221	221	221	221	221	221
227	199	222	222	222	222	222	222
228	200	223	223	223	223	223	223
229	201	224	224	224	224	224	224
230	202	225	225	225	225	225	225
231	203	226	226	226	226	226	226
232	204	227	227	227	227	227	227
233	205	228	228	228	228	228	228
234	206	229	229	229	229	229	229
235	207	230	230	230	230	230	230
236	208	231	231	231	231	231	231
237	209	232	232	232	232	232	232
238	210	233	233	233	233	233	233
239	211	234	234	234	234	234	234
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241	213	236	236	236	236	236	236
242	214	237	237	237	237	237	237
243	215	238	238	238	238	238	238
244	216	239	239	239	239	239	239
245	217	240	240	240	240	240	240
246	218	241	241	241	241	241	241
247	219	242	242	242	242	242	242
248	220	243	243	243	243	243	243
249	221	244	244	244	244	244	244
250	222	245	245	245	245	245	245
251	223	246	246	246	246	246	246
252	224	247	247	247	247	247	247
253	225	248	248	248	248	248	248
254	226	249	249	249	249	249	249

No sex and violence, just snogs and violins

I have a number of excuses for falling behind with *Plotlands* (BBC1). The fact that until last night it coincided with *Wokenwell*, a feeling that *Drovers' Gold* is probably enough frontier television for this weekend, and a mild aversion to drama rooted so deeply in pathos and naivety. There, that's three — is that enough?

But last night I did some catching up. And very enjoyable it proved too. Since Chloe and her daughters pitched their tent at Langton Fields all those weeks ago, much mud and misery has passed under the groundsheet and Saskia Reeves, who plays Chloe, has come up with 100 different ways of looking at the face of fresh adversity. Last night, however, was different. She got kissed.

Let's face it, we have known she was going to get kissed right from episode one, when she discovered there was actually something rather nice lurking in the woods —

the tall, dark and softly spoken Tom (Richard Lintern). Still, for all its predictability, it was worth waiting for. There were even violins.

This being 1922 and before the watershed (not to be confused with the woodshed), the subsequent crescendo signalled no groans or bursting of buttons, but simply another kiss... and then another. Nor was there anything remotely post-coital about the quieter, gentler passage that followed. There were simply chores to be done. "I've got to get back," explained Chloe, enabling Reeves to look stoic in the face of adversity number 101 — cooking for a party when you'd rather be snogging.

After a spot of Amish-like marriage-raising, the party — hosted by the unscrupulous Harry Crowley — went quite well until Billy Reed, the blind and very scary pawnbroker, found out what Crowley was up to, and the highly-

strung Mrs Forster (Peta Markham) went off for a quick roll in the hay with a passing chauffeur.

The result of the former was a punch-up and the result of the latter, a tragedy. Understandably but perhaps unwisely given her well-established mental fragility, Mr Forster (Richard Cordery) told his wife that marrying him had been her worst mistake of all. Mrs Forster agreed and walked into a conveniently nearby lake for adversity number 102.

Having caught up with Jeremy Brock's sentimental but impressively original creation, I discover there is only one more episode to go. Will Chloe get kissed again or will her violent and hitherto estranged husband return to claim his own, now he has been told where she is living? Could be a busy weekend for the man in the woodshed.

Of course, the really big ques-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

tion for next weekend — and I write in a delicate whisper here — is whether we'll get through it without a... well, you know, a... oh, very well, without a recital examination. Suddenly they are the new dramatic device. Nine days ago Jonathan Creek couldn't get through his final episode without being told to his side and bring his knees up to his chest. And on Saturday night it was

Warren Clarke's turn for the theatrical flourish of rubber gloves as Dalziel and Pascoe (BBC1) got under way. What on earth is going on at the BBC? Has there been a mass outbreak of prostate trouble among the ranks of the corporation's male, middle-class, middle-aged middle management? I think we should be told... but preferably not shown again.

That apart, Dalziel and Pascoe go off to an excellent start, confidently inhabiting the sort of not-quite-real world that Miss Marple would have recognised and that John Nettles has a stab at a few months ago in *The Midsummer Murders*. These days the murders are brutally real, but as long as characters still produce such lines as "it doesn't seem possible in Thornton Lacey. It's such a quiet place... or always used to be," we know we don't have to take them too seriously.

Malcolm Bradbury, who adapt-

ed from Reginald Hill's novel, got the tone just right. So too did Clarke, who, as Detective Superintendent Dalziel, not only looks and sounds like Les Dawson but seems to have borrowed some of his punch lines. "I don't like the sound of that cough," said his doctor in a pre-rubber-gloves encounter. "Sorry, it's the only one I've got." In short, he's the sort of man that calls a colleague's wife a "doxy" and an Asian constable "Gunga". In even shorter, he's a television Yorkshireman.

It is sidekick, the newly promoted Detective Inspector Pascoe, is the expected contrast — young, university educated, career on a fast track. The sort of man who, when he says "do you know that a butterfly beating its wings in the Amazon can cause a hurricane in China?" receives the reply: "No, but you hum it and I'll join in."

A little unfortunately, nobody had told Patrick Ryecart that it wasn't all being played for laughs. He duly turned in an enjoyable but faintly preposterous performance rescued only by the fact that Anton Davenport, food writer and purveyor of "old darlings", was actually Terence Arthur Dicks, distributor of stolen animals. The murderer turned out to be somebody else but the plot had got some complicated by then, so I forget who.

Finally let us turn to *The Other Half* (BBC1, Saturday), a game show hosted by the genial Dale Winton. In the rush to throw together the cannibalised components of its format (*Blind Date*, *Mr and Mrs Through the Keyhole*) one vital fact has been overlooked. Guessing people's other halves is terribly, terribly easy. Three attempts on Saturday night there really are a future in this? I very much fear there can.

- BBC**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (71607)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (55719)
 - 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5531448)
 - 9.20 Chessers' Challenge (3543332)
 - 9.45 Kilroy (7) (8004719)
 - 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (91245)
 - 11.00 News (7); and weather (2065581)
 - 11.05 Real Rooms (792581)
 - 11.30 The Great Escape (7822)
 - 12.00 News (7); and weather (1825806)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5754210)
 - 12.35 Neighbours (4525328)
 - 1.00 News (7); and weather (58806)
 - 1.30 Regional News (1589997)
 - 1.40 The Weather Show (35957516)
 - 1.45 Quinlan Jack Klugman stars (6118500)
 - 2.35 Columbo (824535)
 - 3.45 Gloria's Time Off With... Westerman (1) (3671245)
 - 4.00 Popeye (3430559) 4.10 Casper (8937142) 4.35 50/50. Last in series (893806) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (8605719)
 - 5.10 Blue Peter: Stuart Miles takes on Tim Herman (7) (7355022)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (7) (863581)
 - 6.00 News (7); and weather (535)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (887)
 - 7.00 Big Break: Jim Davidson hosts the hot-potting snooker game, with Graham Miles joining veterans John Spencer and Rex Williams (7) (9222)
 - 7.30 Mastermind Hosted by Magnus Magnusson from the Great Hall, Birmingham Palace. Tonight's specialist subjects are war, the Irish Civil War of 1922, the life and music of Prokofiev and organic gardening (7) (871)
 - 8.00 EastEnders Grant and Tiffany look to the future with baby Courtney (7) (2142)
 - 8.30 The Peter Principle (3/6) Bank manager Peter goes to drastic lengths to get his performance bonus (7) (4177)
 - 9.00 News (7); Regional News and weather (3429)
 - 9.30 Birds of a Feather Chris and Darryl find it tough adjusting to life on the outside (7) (22603)
 - 10.00 Panorama: Down the Tube As commuters recount horror stories of their struggle to travel around the capital, Panorama asks if the new Labour Government will reinvest in the Tube network to stop the system falling further into disrepair (7) (224712)
 - 10.40 The Other Side of Murder (1991) with Richard Chamberlain, Michael Lammie, Danie Heames and Zeilko Vaneck. Drama based on a real event. Two members of a wealthy family interrupt an armed robbery, which leaves one dead and the other fighting for his life. Directed by Glenn Gordon (7) (8647446)
 - 12.15am The Return of Elton John (1991) 4.00 Crook Writing (7) (254) 5.00 Sir Tric Tric: The Next Generation (6177) 6.00 Real TV (8687) 6.30 Marmite — with Children (4238) 7.00 The Simpsons (1994) 7.30 The Simpsons (1994) 8.00 The Simpsons (1994) 8.30 The Simpsons (1994) 9.00 The Simpsons (1994) 9.30 The Simpsons (1994) 10.00 The Simpsons (1994) 10.30 The Simpsons (1994) 11.00 The Simpsons (1994) 11.30 The Simpsons (1994) 12.00 The Simpsons (1994) 12.30 The Simpsons (1994) 1.00 The Simpsons (1994) 1.30 The Simpsons (1994) 2.00 The Simpsons (1994) 2.30 The Simpsons (1994) 3.00 The Simpsons (1994) 3.30 The Simpsons (1994) 4.00 The Simpsons (1994) 4.30 The Simpsons (1994) 5.00 The Simpsons (1994) 5.30 The Simpsons (1994) 6.00 The Simpsons (1994) 6.30 The Simpsons (1994) 7.00 The Simpsons (1994) 7.30 The Simpsons (1994) 8.00 The Simpsons (1994) 8.30 The Simpsons (1994) 9.00 The Simpsons (1994) 9.30 The Simpsons (1994) 10.00 The Simpsons (1994) 10.30 The Simpsons (1994) 11.00 The 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Roger Bootle considers the demise of EMU

BUSINESS

PETROL WARS 46

Motorists win in battle of the forecourts



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JUNE 16 1997

DIY form will bring taxman £150m bonus, say experts

By MATTHEW WALL

SELF-ASSESSMENT, the new tax system affecting 8.5 million people who receive tax returns, will deliver a windfall bonus of at least £150 million to the Government, experts predict, because of fines levied for late payment and non-compliance.

Tax experts dismiss as far too low the official estimates that no more

than 15 per cent of tax returns will be sent in after the deadline of January 31, 1998, thereby incurring an automatic £100 penalty, plus interest on the tax due.

Bob Brown, a former senior Inland Revenue tax investigator now working for Ernst & Young, the accountant, says: "The real figure is likely to be more than 15 per cent, which will deliver a net

gain to the Exchequer in interest and penalties of up to £150 million." Neil Bradley, director of Tax Aid, a self-assessment tax return completion service, said: "I think even £150 million is a conservative estimate."

Inland Revenue staff at our local tax offices in north Staffordshire say that 60 per cent to 70 per cent of returns sent back so

far are wrong. Self-assessment is a can of worms."

Clive Brooks, joint general secretary of the Public Service Tax and Commerce Union, which represents 50,000 Revenue staff, said: "Some research suggests that the fines and interest could even reach £500 million. Come January 31, we are going to have a riot on our hands."

However, Dawn Primarolo, Fin-

ancial Secretary to the Treasury, has dismissed such predictions as scaremongering by accountants hoping to drum up business from worried taxpayers.

In response, John Whiting, of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, said: "We have studiously avoided scaremongering. There are mistakes being made on both sides, as we would expect with such a

radical change to the tax system. But we are concerned that the Revenue still plans to enforce its penalty regime rigidly despite this."

"We are asking for a kind of amnesty in the first year while people adjust to the new system."

A Revenue spokesman said: "We have no intention at the moment of granting an amnesty. We do not want to fine people and we are

doing everything in our power to help people to fill in the forms correctly."

The spokesman said that about 800,000 tax forms had been sent back so far, with only 5 per cent having to be returned because they had not been filled in properly. The number having to be corrected by the Revenue was also within the 35 per cent estimate, he said.

NU investors face cutbacks on extra shares

By ADAM JONES

THOUSANDS of members and investors who applied for extra Norwich Union shares will receive far fewer than they requested after enormous demand in advance of today's float, evoking comparisons to hugely popular issues of the Eighties.

Institutions will be particularly hungry for stock after their part of the share offer was more than ten times oversubscribed. A number of predators, including AMP of Australia, are expected to start building up holdings.

The price of shares allocated through the pre-floatation public offer was set yesterday at 200p, although qualifying members will have to pay only 265p.

The price is at the top of the range suggested by the insurer beforehand. Norwich Union said yesterday that it had considered a higher price, but decided with Kleinwort Benson, the principal adviser, that 200p represented fair value. The shares are now expected to open well above 300p when trading starts today and could top 350p.

Demand from members for shares in addition to those that they received as a "windfall" payment was nearly four times greater than the amount available. A total of 766,000 applications were received after Norwich's high-profile advertising campaign. Mem-

bers wanted to buy £4.65 billion of shares at the bargain price when only £1.2 billion worth were available. The average application size was about £6,000.

Preference in the institutional allocations went to those that looked to be long-term investors. They were allocated 402 million shares with a value of £1.17 billion.

Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, said that the response to the offer had been tremendous. He added: "We have tried to look after the smaller member and be very fair." Applications from any party for up to £1,500 of stock will be met in full.

Beyond that point, applicants will receive fewer shares

than they requested, on a variable scale. Those members who sought the maximum £100,000 of shares will be allowed 9 per cent of their request by value. Those who bought in the public offer, such as institutions, will receive the same percentage allocation as members.

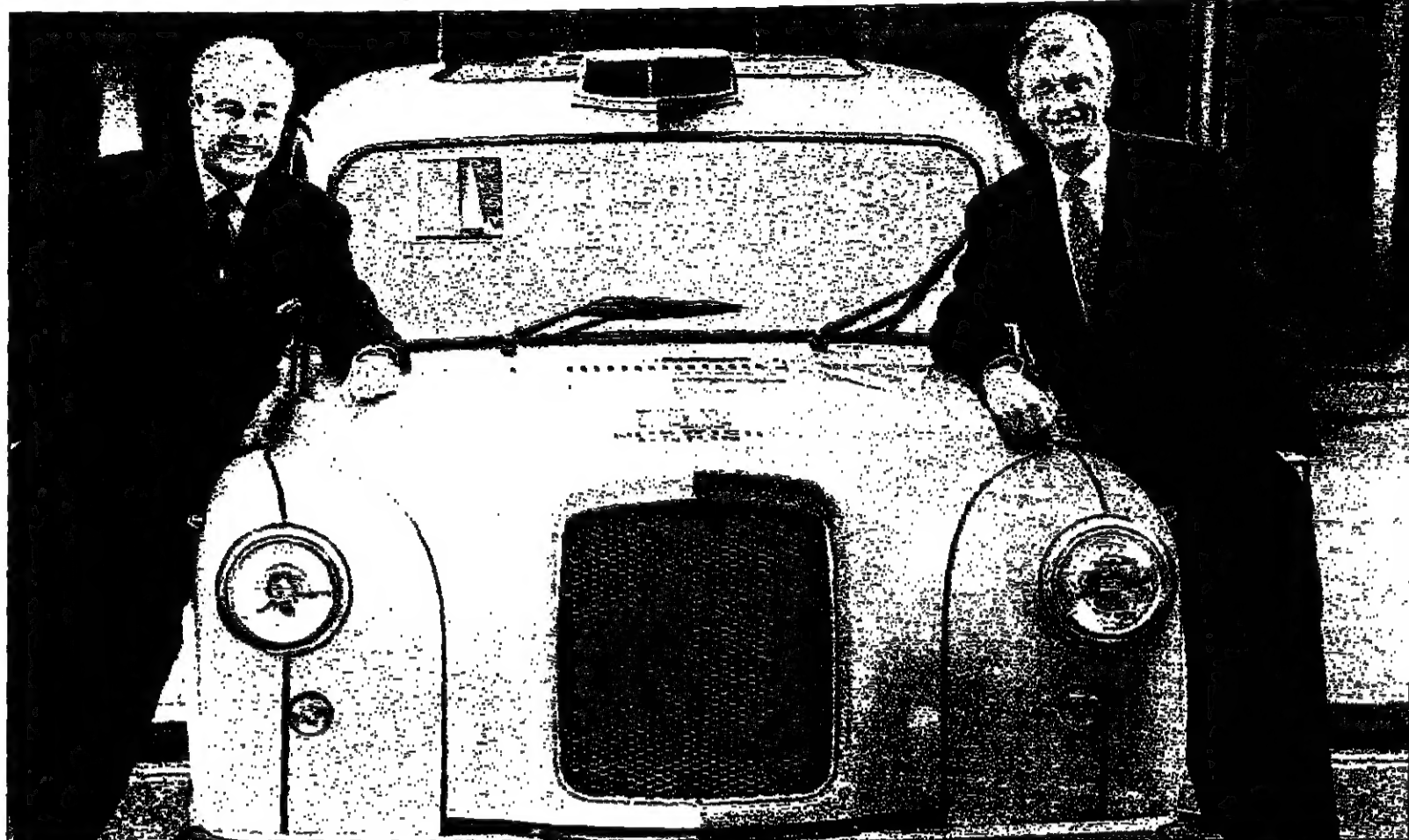
Norwich Union said that 77 per cent of its share capital would be held by members on flotation, taking into account the 1.3 billion free shares that have been allocated to 2.9 million qualifying members. The offer price values the minimum windfall payment of 150 shares at £435.

The insurer said that 40 per cent of UK members had chosen to put their shares into a Norwich Union share account, with 10 per cent opting for a single-company personal equity plan.

Members who have not applied for extra stock were posted account statements and share certificates last Friday and should be able to sell today. Those who tried to buy more should be sent statements, certificates and any cheque refunds on Friday.

Norwich Union yesterday gave a warning to investors of the danger of selling before they had been sent confirmation of their allocation.

The insurer is almost certain to be admitted to the FTSE 100 list of companies in September, heightening demand from institutions this summer. The float is costing £120 million, including printing and postage costs and the creation of new life companies overseas.



Market bound: Allan Bridgewater, Norwich Union's chief executive, left, and Richard Harvey, his deputy, with a taxi displaying the share prices

Nationwide under siege from thousands of carpetbaggers

By NATHAN YATES AND ADAM JONES

THE Nationwide Building Society is having to ask some would-be members to wait a week for an appointment to open a savings account.

The society has been deluged by applications after speculation that it might be taken over or convert to a bank, entitling members to a windfall payment. On one day last week, 25,000 new accounts were opened.

However, a Nationwide spokesman yesterday said that the society does not plan to close accounts to new cus-

tomers or raise minimum deposit levels, in spite of being "besieged".

The society will today announce that it is refusing to raise its mortgage lending rates in line with competitors in spite of the recent quarter-point rise in base rates. It said the decision to keep its rate at 7.35 per cent showed the benefits of mutual status.

Nationwide will also send out a plea for support to its 3.5 million members today. The mailshot, which will be included with ballot papers for

the board election, asks members not to vote for five rebel candidates who are determined to force through a conversion to plc status.

The move comes amid fears that the pro-conversion candidates, led by seasoned "carpetbagger" Michael Hardern, may be heading for shock victory in the ballot. The dissidents, who have sent out 25,000 free "Carpetbaggers' Guides to Nationwide" members, say they are confident of a landslide in their favour.

Mr Hardern rejected claims

that demutualisation would damage customers' interests. "Mutuality is a fake democracy which benefits only the top few per cent of building society members," he said.

He added that the estimated payout of more than £1,000 per member from the flotation of the society would far outweigh any benefits from better borrowing or saving rates under mutuality.

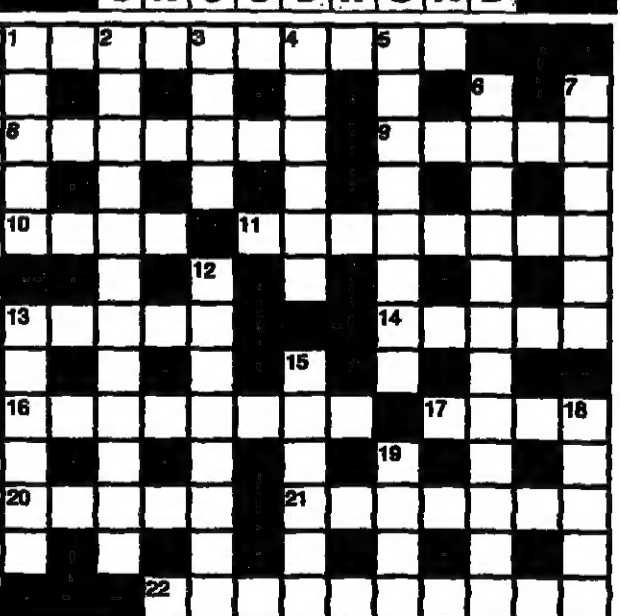
Nationwide voting forms must be returned by July 22, and results will be announced at the annual meeting on July 24.

Yorkshire TV revolt is waning

A SHAREHOLDER revolt in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television over the £710 million bid by Granada seems to be fizzling out. Many shareholders were disappointed by the £11.75-a-share offer, including Mercury Asset Management, which owns 4.9 per cent and bought many shares at close to £12. However, Mercury insiders said it "has no intention" of rejecting the offer.

The other logical suitor for YTTT is United News & Media, with 14 per cent. It has shown no wish to bid. Lord Hollick, United chief executive, dismissed reports that it is in merger talks with Granada.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1121

ACROSS

- 1 Make poor (10)
- 8 Permitted (7)
- 9 Legs-eleven etc game (5)
- 10 Stuff full (4)
- 11 One from Tallinn (8)
- 13 Instrument, may be grand (5)
- 14 A goat: a child-minder (5)
- 16 Joan Hunter Dunn poet (8)
- 17 Socialists Sidney and Beatrice (4)
- 20 Thrust forward (5)
- 21 Insulting (7)
- 22 Bringer of fire (Gk. myth) (10)

DOWN

- 1 Son of Abraham (5)
- 2 Play a dirty trick (4,1,4,3)
- 3 Oaths (4)
- 4 Pungent salad root (6)
- 5 Court attendance order (8)
- 6 Pre-1789 France (6,6)
- 7 Generosity: a reward (6)
- 12 Ancestor (8)
- 13 Toeless creature (Leary) (6)
- 15 Petrol jelly (bomb) (6)
- 18 Give benediction (5)
- 19 Fair only (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1120

ACROSS: 1 Regatta 5 Topic 8 Group 9 Orderly 10 Londoner 11 Jilt 13 Search warrant 16 Cusp 17 Strangle 20 Confine 21 Overt 22 Actra 23 Dénier

DOWN: 1 Regulus 2 Groin 3 Top-notch 4 At one's wits' end 5 Tidy 6 Perdita 7 Crypt 12 Break out 14 Arsenic 15 Theatre 16 Cocoa 18 Glean 19 Visa

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UK 'has room for more big stores'

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SUPERMARKETS are set to receive a boost this week as new research suggests that Britain needs more of them.

A report by Gmap, the retailing consultants, says that contrary to popular belief, the large supermarket groups are nowhere near to saturating Britain. While Herefordshire, Cheshire and Tayside rank as Britain's "most saturated" areas, other places, including inner London, Cambridgeshire and South Yorkshire, have plenty of room for new stores.

Strict rules on building out of town means that Tesco, J Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda, the big supermarket

groups, will have to concentrate on building smaller stores on high streets and in rural areas, says Professor Martin Clarke, the author of the research.

He also points out that none of the big four groups is yet truly national in scope, and that local battles are likely as each seeks to acquire the remaining regional brands.

Meanwhile, the Fabian Society today calls for the Government to have a rethink on retailing. It says that out-of-town planning rules should be "reviewed to balance consumer and employment interests with environmental concerns".

Courtaulds plant for Singapore

COURTAULDS is close to finalising plans to build a huge new plant for the production of Tencel, its new fashion fabric, in Singapore (Patience Wheatcroft writes).

Analysts believe the move is very important for Courtaulds' future profit growth. Demand for Tencel, which is made from cellulose, is rising. According to Courtaulds, Marks & Spencer has sold £75 million of Tencel garments this season, against its forecasts of £50 million.

The material is made in the United States, but a UK plant is under construction in Grimsby and is due to come on-stream towards the end of this year.

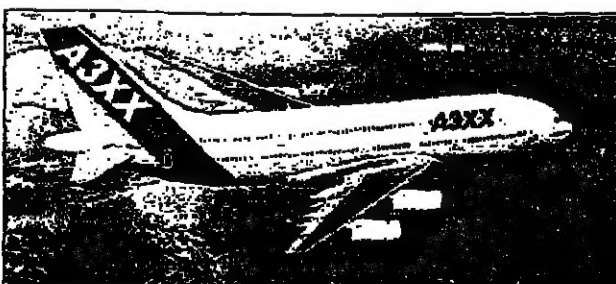
Dogfight at the air show

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN PARIS

IN a heated row at the Paris Air Show yesterday, Boeing demanded an apology from Airbus over allegations that its merger with McDonnell Douglas was the result of a conspiracy to dominate the world aviation market.

Jean Pierson, Airbus managing director, said McDonnell had deliberately cancelled aircraft programmes and "scuttled" government contracts to undermine its own commercial viability. He alleged that this would force the US Government to waive anti-trust objections to its merger with Boeing.

M Pierson said: "Recent statements by the management of Boeing leave no doubt to a long-lasting strategy implemented with McDonnell's active complicity." He alleged



Heavy turbulence: Airbus launched attack on Boeing

that McDonnell cancelled its MD-XX aircraft programme and its joint bid with British Aerospace for the Joint Strike Fighter, the military aircraft project, to prepare the ground for the \$15 billion merger.

Boeing strongly denied the allegations. Ron Woodard, the president of the commercial aircraft division, said: "Pierson is getting paranoid. The conspiracy theory is com-

plete lunacy. He ought to apologise. I hope it doesn't come to a trade war over this."

Mr Woodard said he is confident the merger will not be rejected by US and EU authorities, which are set to rule by early July.

Airbus also launched two new A340 aircraft for the year 2002. The A340-500 and A340-600, will be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 500 engines.

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